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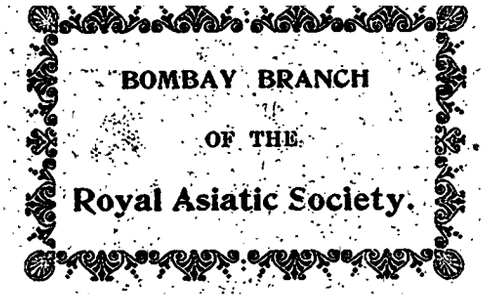

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL,

1918-1919.

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CALCUTTA :

THE BENGAL SECRETARIAT BOOK DEPOT.

1921.

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[The maximum number of pages prescribed for Part I (General Summary) is 10 pages and for Part II, 150 pages.]

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MAP.

MAP OF BENGAL.

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1918-19.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

Economic and political conditions.—The chief economic feature of the period under review* was the effect which the war had on prices. At its commencement the price of such necessaries as salt, sugar, ghee, kerosine oil and, in particular, cloth was high; but the price of rice was low and stocks were large. Later on, the rise in prices in other countries, a rise due to reduced production of the necessaries of life in the countries at war and to an inflation of currency, began to have a sympathetic effect on prices in India; the general failure of the monsoon of 1918 throughout India led to actual famine in other provinces; and the particular failure of the monsoon in Bengal led to a short crop of rice in this province. Consequently, the prices of rice and other foodstuffs rose rapidly until in the month of August 1919 a panic in the price of rice spread from Eastern Bengal over the province. This appears to have been due primarily to a mistaken belief, which ignored the world-wide causes at the root of the matter, that there was an actual deficiency of rice. The price of rice was, however, prevented from soaring to the heights prevailing in foreign countries by the restrictions placed on exports to those countries. It was also steadied by the importation of Burma rice, which incidentally provided the poorer classes with a cheap article of diet. Moreover, a good harvest in 1919 has now served to bring about some reduction in the price of rice.

Economic conditions were therefore unstable throughout the period under review, but the general level of all prices in India increased to a degree comparatively less than in most other countries for which statistics are available. As consumers the population were paying substantially higher prices than in pre-war years for what they consumed; as producers or middlemen they were receiving substantially greater profits. The economic stress was felt mostly by the poorer, middle and the labouring classes.

This state of affairs was aggravated by natural causes. The influenza epidemic, of which there were two distinct waves in 1918, took a heavy toll of victims. A flood such as had not occurred for half a century traversed several districts in the Rajshahi Division necessitating the opening of relief works in the districts of Rajshahi and Bogra.

* The report deals with the financial year 1918-19 but in the summary the period under review extends from April 1918 to December 1919, the months falling between the end of the financial year (March 31st) and the end of the calendar year (December 31st) having been included with the object of minimising the interval between the latest occurrences described in the report and the date of its publication.

Floods also led to the organization of relief in the Brahmanbaria subdivision in the district of Tippera. Famine was declared in Bankura owing to a widespread failure of the rice crop in that district. Finally, a cyclone swept through the districts of Khulna, Jessore, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Dacca, Mymensingh and Tippera on the night of the 24th September 1919 and was attended by much damage to property and the loss of nearly 2,000 lives.

On the other hand, the distress caused by the cyclone was temporary; elsewhere the visitations of nature were only local and ample relief was afforded in all cases, while high prices benefited the producers. The cessation of hostilities with Germany raised in the populace general hopes of a sweeping reduction in the cost of living, and there was natural disappointment when it was found that the process of economic recovery would be slow.

The proposals for constitutional reform raised public discussion to higher levels of debate than had been the case for many years, and led to an interesting definition of issues between the Moderate and the Extremist parties. Indian politicians took up an attitude of extreme hostility to the Rowlatt legislation, and the security of a leading newspaper was forfeited on account of its writings on the subject. An effort was made to enlist the activities of the populace in the Satyagraha movement and its policy of *hartal*. The agitation secured a dangerous footing only in Calcutta, where it occasioned a disturbance of the peace, to quell which it was found necessary to employ armed force. Muhammadans showed an increasing interest in the problem of Turkey, and their leaders addressed themselves assiduously to the exposition of Muhammadan wishes, more particularly as regards the Caliphate. When however war broke out with Afghanistan, the public unanimously denounced the Amir for his rash act.

In September 1918 Muhammadan religious susceptibilities were offended by an ill-advised article that appeared in one of the Calcutta newspapers, and a demonstration of some magnitude was organized in Calcutta. It led to rioting, which had to be suppressed by calling out the military, and necessitated the expulsion from Bengal of a coterie of non-Bengal Muhammadan agitators.

2. **Commerce and Industries.**—Commerce and industry flourished in spite of drastic modifications of the normal course of business necessitated by the war and readjustments subsequent to the armistice.

Labour, as in the previous year, was always in demand, but the supply was much greater owing to high prices. This is illustrated by an increase of 110,000 emigrants passing through Goalundo to the tea-gardens. The Asansol coal mines employed 7,500 more labourers daily, and factories and jute mills nearly 4,000 more than in the previous year.

The Report of the Indian Industrial Commission lays stress on the fact that India is a country rich in raw materials and industrial possibilities, which want development. Signs are not wanting in Bengal of the recognition of this fact, and definite efforts are being made to stimulate and organize indigenous industry. The appointment of a

Director of Industries in 1918 was a preliminary step in this direction. The Peace Exhibition in Calcutta at the end of 1919 opened the eyes of many to the advance already made under the stimulus of war conditions and to the possibilities of the future. Apart from the great jute, tea and coal industries, the Presidency is dotted about with smaller concerns. Machinery, implements and tools for use on tea gardens and in jute-mills and factories are now manufactured in Bengal. Tea-boxes are made in the Duars instead of being almost entirely imported from Japan. Hides, oil, sugar, blankets, paper, cloth, silk, bellmetal ware, mats, baskets and buttons from mother-of-pearl or cocoanut shells are all produced in considerable quantities. The Bengal Home Industries Association continued its activities in fostering cottage industries. It placed large orders and secured quick sales.

An examination of the commerce of the Presidency during the year illustrates the disturbed conditions and altered requirements that governed the market both before and after the armistice. Incidentally, it shows how the country might be made more self-sufficing in certain directions. That those conditions failed to reduce the total value of trade much below the highest pre-war figures is an indication of the prosperity and resources of the Presidency. Notwithstanding such adverse factors as shortage of freight, diversion of labour from productive industries, control over exports, unsettled exchange and cable delays, the value of the sea-borne trade that passed through the Port of Calcutta—96 per cent. of the whole in Bengal—amounted to Rs. 270 crores as against Rs. 171 crores in the previous year. The increase was 16 per cent. in imports and 21 per cent. in exports. After the armistice the normal balance between exports and imports became further unsettled, in spite of easier freights, owing to the high rates of exchange which hampered exports but helped imports.

The scarcity and high prices of cotton goods are indicated in the decrease from 766 to 512 million yards of piece-goods imported. The world-wide shortage and costliness of metals are sufficiently indicated by the fact that the imports were less than one-third of the average for the quinquennium ending 1915-16. The big silver import of Rs. 3,951 lakhs as against Rs. 821 lakhs in the previous year illustrates currency needs. There was an almost complete cessation of supplies of provisions from Europe, and a large share of this trade was secured by Australia. Oil imported from America fell from 8·3 million gallons to 3·7 million gallons owing to the requisition for war purposes of oil-carrying steamers. Burma, however, more than made up this deficit. In spite of this increase in imports there was scarcity of oil in the interior owing to transport difficulties.

The volume of exported raw jute aggregated nearly 2,216 thousand bales—an advance of 43 per cent. on the exports of the previous year. The shipments of gunny bags and cloth were smaller than in the previous year, but their value was higher by Rs. 9½ crores and more than double the pre-war average. Altogether 221 million bags and 269 million yards of cloth were on account of War Office shipments; 7 million bags were despatched to Argentine for bagging wheat purchased there by the Royal Wheat Commission. The value of the jute trade to

Bengal is indicated by the fact that jute exports form 63 per cent. of the whole export trade of Calcutta. There was a decrease of 54 million pounds of tea exports due partly to the disappearance of the Russian market. But even so, 225 million pounds were exported, of which only 24 million pounds went to countries other than the United Kingdom. The removal of tea control after the armistice was welcomed by the planters, as under control little premium is put upon quality. Hides and skins barely increased in quantity in spite of the removal of restrictions after the armistice, but added 13 per cent. to their total value. The needs of Great Britain, Italy and America for leather for military boots and leatherwork naturally decreased after the war.

The United Kingdom took 26·6 per cent. of Calcutta's exports, while the United States took 28·4 per cent. Both Australia and America improved their trade, the latter especially as an importer of jute manufactures and an exporter of iron and steel. The figures of the first half of 1919-20 show a further big advance in American trade. Japan made a remarkable rise to second place after the United Kingdom on the list of importers; her cotton manufactures, metals and tea-chests almost doubled her trade. On the other hand, the figures from April to September 1919 show that the value of her imports into British India have dropped to Rs. 9 crores from Rs. 15⅓ crores in the same period last year. Australia improved her position all round. Russia dropped out altogether—a significant index of the results of Bolshevism.

3. **Port Trusts.**—Both Calcutta and Chittagong Port Trusts have been adversely affected by the war, and the cessation of hostilities did not bring any marked improvement. Although Calcutta showed a slightly improved financial statement, there was little more than half the pre-war activity. The figures show the influence of the world-wide shortage of freight. It was found necessary for financial stability to continue the war surcharges after the armistice. Improvements in ordinary receipts did not keep pace with increased expenditure. Increases of pay, high coal prices and the high cost of maintenance and repairs fallen into arrears were the main burdens, while sinking fund securities depreciated by Rs. 46½ lakhs.

The increase in receipts by the Chittagong Port Trust was due to a special grant of Rs. 1 lakh from Government, to the imposition of a surcharge of 100 per cent. from March 1918 on mooring and unmooring fees, to the raising of the river dues from 4 annas to one rupee per ton on all goods entering or leaving the port and to an improvement in the jute export trade. Seven hundred and nine vessels entered the port as against 600 in the previous year. The question of the development of this port has for some time been before Government, and the Government of India agreed to find a further sum of Rs. 3¼ lakhs during 1919-20 for urgent revetment work, and also a sum of Rs. 8 lakhs for the purchase of a dredger for use in the port. Legislation was begun for placing the administration of the port under the direct control of the Assam-Bengal Railway in view of its preponderating interest in the development of the port.

4. **Agriculture.**—Good progress continued to be made by the Agricultural Department during the period. Each district now has its Agricultural Officer, and there are nearly a hundred demonstrators. A scheme for the introduction of three or four district farms annually was inaugurated with the sanction for the establishment of the first three farms. A scheme for the establishment of two agricultural vernacular schools was also sanctioned. The distribution of seed of departmentally selected varieties, in particular of winter rice, autumn rice and jute, by sale in small packets is the main item of district work. The demand for the seed of the selected jute variety (*Bombaya Kakya*) is now too great for the department to supply it. It is estimated that on account of the increased yield from these seeds over local varieties the Bengal cultivator will be better off by about a quarter of a million sterling than before. When the total area is covered, the net income of the cultivators of rice and jute will be increased by seven millions sterling. Other lines of activity are demonstration of the effects of manures, the introduction of groundnut into Western Bengal, and measures against the *ufra* disease of rice. In the sericultural section there was a marked increase in the sale of tested seed of silkworms.

All this practical work is stimulated by constant research work upon fibres, rice, soil, insects, silkworms and disease. The Rangpur cattle farm, improved by a change in its system of management, is working on the question of whether the importation of outside blood is necessary or advisable for improving the breed of Bengal cattle. A feature of the period was the growth of small unofficial associations of practical agriculturists, notably in the districts of Birbhum and Faridpur.

5. **Co-operative movement.**—The increase in the number of societies during the year was 613, of members 16,000 and of working capital Rs. 37½ lakhs. The societies now have a membership of more than 175,000 persons and a working capital of Rs. 230 lakhs. Better prices during the year synchronised with an increase in financial prosperity ; and repayments of loans were good. One group of societies has succeeded in reducing the normal rate of interest charged in the locality. The Naogaon Ganja Cultivators' Society continued its remarkable career. This society of 3,000 members made a profit of Rs. 3 lakhs during the year ending June 1919 and has completely ousted the *ganja* brokers. Its activities are now being extended in the direction of a purchase and sale society, cattle insurance, a demonstration farm, education, medicine, relief of distress and town improvement. Weaving societies in Bankura also were set upon their feet, a profit made, and 500 families kept off the famine relief works which had been opened in that district. Highly successful milk societies were organized for the supply to Calcutta of pure milk at cheap rates.

The central banks continued to flourish, while the Provincial Co-operative Federation succeeded beyond expectation. By the end of June 1919, 49 central banks and eight other societies had joined it. It received Rs. 10¾ lakhs of the idle funds of its members for investment and repaid Rs. 8 lakhs. Out of Rs. 13 lakhs of deposits taken

out from central banks at a high rate of interest it repaid Rs. 4 lakhs. It also saved one central bank from disaster during the year ending June 1919.

6. **Irrigation.**—Bengal lies below the high flood level of the network of rivers that intersect it. The engineering problems therefore that confront the Public Works Department are peculiar. They are mainly concerned with sanitation, navigation and protection of land, roads, railways and buildings from floods or erosion. The work is rather defensive than irrigation proper. The rivers themselves irrigate the land when in flood and also deposit the suspended silt on the land which acts both as a fertilizer and in building up the land itself. The problem which then arises is to regulate the water on the land and to provide for its final drainage after the crops have matured. The rivers are apt to change their course, the natural channels become blocked both from natural and artificial causes, and the areas submerged by flood become stagnant lagoons or swamps. Thus drainage and control of river courses are the main lines of activity.

During the year, works to improve the navigable condition of some of the river channels between Khulna and Barisal and of the Madaripur Bil route were completed. Works in connection with the improvement of the Bidyadhari river were continued; these works are at present in an experimental stage, but the object aimed at is to prolong the life of the river, which had very nearly silted up, by the creation of a spill reservoir for the flood tide, the contraction of the river channel by spurs and scouring of the river bed on the ebb-tide by means of the water collected in the spill reservoir.

7. **Police.**—Of the 2,911 recruits secured for the rural police during the year, 63 per cent. were Bengalis, the largest proportion yet on record. A conspicuous number of the men enrolled as sub-inspectors were graduates and an increased number of officers and men earned rewards. There was a slight decrease in the total volume of serious crime, though dacoities were more numerous, an increase accounted for by the general economic distress which prevailed. The figures of political crime were gratifyingly small, and for the first time since 1907 no member of the public was killed at the hands of the anarchists. This result may be attributed to the action taken by Government under the Defence of India Act and Regulation III of 1818.

8. **Jails.**—The daily average population of the jails advanced on the figures of the previous year; jail offences, however, decreased. The death rate rose above the quinquennial average, but the general health returns were, on the whole, satisfactory. The outturn of jail manufactures was good under all heads; the military authorities were again supplied with large quantities of bandages, twill bags, dusters and blankets, and the quinine sold brought in a profit of over Rs. 1,00,000.

9. **Public Health.**—The outstanding feature of the year 1918 from a public health point of view was the outbreak of influenza which swept over the Presidency in two distinct epidemic waves. The first epidemic which lasted about six weeks was characterized by the

rapidity with which it spread, the large number attacked, the mildness of the disease, the absence of complications and the fact that it was chiefly confined to towns. This outbreak subsided about the middle of August and for about a month the disease appeared to have disappeared. But in the middle of September there was a recrudescence and a second epidemic wave passed over the province, which, although not quite so widespread as the first, was more serious, being characterized by the great frequency of dangerous respiratory and other complications which resulted in many instances in high mortality. On this occasion rural areas were affected more severely than the towns. Owing to the sudden onset, rapid spread and widespread nature of the epidemic, as well as the lack of any certain specific against the disease, the medical and sanitary organizations were unable to take effective measures to check its ravages. There is little exact information regarding the case mortality, but it appears to have been under 2 per cent. in the first epidemic, whereas in the second outbreak it varied from 10 to 20 per cent. or over. The greatly increased mortality was due to the frequency of serious complications, involving either the respiratory tract, the heart or the nervous system. What the actual mortality from influenza was it is impossible to say, but it probably amounted to a total of from 350,000 to 400,000 deaths during the year.

Malaria of a severe type also prevailed, causing a largely augmented death roll. As a result mainly of these adverse factors, as well as of unfavourable economic conditions, the death rate for the Presidency rose from 26 to 38 per mille.

There was a conspicuous development of the activities of the Public Health Department due to the growth of public interest in questions of public health and the closer attention paid to the sanitary organization of local bodies, as well as the special enquiries and experiments in progress. The great need of public health administration in rural Bengal is the organization of a trained sanitary staff, and as a first step in this direction it was decided that each District Board should appoint a qualified medical officer of health from 1st April 1920.

The campaign against malaria continued, and several local bodies adopted schemes devised on improved scientific lines for its prevention and mitigation. Steps were also inaugurated for a campaign against hookworm disease, which affects a large proportion of the population (estimated at possibly 80 per cent. or 36,000,000 persons); three special Deputy Sanitary Commissioners with a subordinate staff were appointed to introduce and supervise operations in the collieries, the tea-gardens, the mills near Calcutta, the railways and certain rural areas.

10. **Education.**—The publication during the period under review of the Report of the Calcutta University Commission proposing far-reaching reforms in the whole system of University and secondary education constitutes a landmark in the history of higher education in Bengal. The first fruit of its recommendations has been the introduction in the Imperial Legislative Council of a Bill for the creation of a

University of a unitary type at Dacca on the lines suggested by the Commission.

A measure of great potential value to the progress of primary education is the Bengal Primary Education Act, which was passed during the year. The Bill originally introduced purposed to give to the Commissioners of municipalities and the local authorities of other selected areas the power to make primary education compulsory. Its character was transformed in its passage through the Legislative Council as it was felt that under present conditions a measure providing for compulsory primary education would be largely inoperative: there is at present no organized system of primary education in municipal areas, and few municipalities would be in a position to advance *per saltum* to a compulsory system under municipal control. The Act as passed contemplates a more gradual advance to be secured by a systematic organization of primary education on the voluntary basis. It provides that Municipal Boards should, in the first instance, meet the full demand for voluntary primary education before proceeding to compulsion. If Government are satisfied that a municipality has resources adequate for the purpose, they may issue an order requiring it to provide sufficient facilities for a complete voluntary system. Compulsion, which will apply to boys aged 6 to 10, will be introduced only on the application of a municipality and only if it has met its obligations in regard to voluntary education. Power is at the same time given to Municipal Boards to levy an educational cess for the furtherance and development of primary education, whether voluntary or compulsory, if their existing resources are inadequate for the purpose.

Two new arts colleges, teaching up to the intermediate standard, were established, one at Faridpur and the other at Bagerhat, the number of arts colleges for Indian male students consequently rising from 31 to 33. The number of high schools has risen by 114 or 16 per cent. in the last two years. The increase of pupils has, however, been scarcely commensurate, the total of those under instruction rising in the same period by only 14,406 or 6·6 per cent.; there is reason to believe that in some places this disproportionate growth of schools and pupils is due to rival high schools springing up with consequent overlapping.

The attendance at primary schools was affected by the prevalence of epidemic disease, especially influenza, and by adverse economic conditions, as a result of which the enrolment in schools for boys fell by 38,000. With the help of an Imperial grant of Rs. 5½ lakhs the Education Department was able to resume the panchayati union scheme which was started some years ago in Eastern Bengal with the object of providing each union with a decent primary school, but had to be suspended owing to financial stringency. Under this scheme 119 primary schools for boys and 30 for girls were established during the year, and the grant will ensure similar progress each year, so that in course of time every union will have a primary school conducted on improved lines. Owing to this and other Imperial grants the proportion of the expenditure on primary education met from public funds has risen with

a corresponding lessening of the ratio borne by fees. On the creation of the Presidency public funds contributed under 30 per cent., but in the year 1918-19 they contributed nearly half of the expenditure.

There was steady progress in the field of female education, the number of institutions for Indian girls increasing by 622 and the number of scholars by 8,215. An interesting feature was the fact that the number of Hindu girls at schools fell by 1,635, whereas there was an increase of nearly 10,000 among the Muhammadan girls. On the creation of the Presidency the Hindu girls under instruction outnumbered the Muhammadan girls by 40,000; but since then the Moslem community has shown an increasing readiness to take advantage of the opportunities offered them for the education of their girls, while the Hindus have lagged behind. Since 1912-13 the number of the latter has risen by only 21,000 or 17 per cent., whereas the enrolment of Muhammadan girls has risen by 63,000 or a little over 70 per cent.

11. **Local Self-Government.**—In the course of the preceding year five District Boards, or one-fifth of the total number, were given the privilege of electing a Chairman from among the non-official members. This privilege has now extended to 15 more District Boards, so that in future these local bodies will be relieved from official tutelage in all but a few districts where special conditions prevail.

The number of village authorities known as Union Committees continued to increase, rising from 174 to 281 with a population of over 2 millions under them and funds at their disposal aggregating over Rs. 2⅓ lakhs. The scope of their duties is, however, limited, and the enactment during the year of the Village Self-Government Act will, it is hoped, be effectual in setting up a new and more complete system of local self-government in the villages.

There were altogether 115 municipalities with an income (including opening balances) of Rs. 89 lakhs and an expenditure of over Rs. 70 lakhs. The number of ratepayers represented 16 per cent. of the residents within municipal limits, and the incidence of taxation averaged Rs. 2-9 per head of the population. The Municipal Commissioners of Burdwan and Hooghly-Chinsura had to be superseded for a year by Government for gross and persistent maladministration and were replaced by the local officers of Government, who were able to introduce substantial reforms during the period of their management. A common feature of municipal work is the reiterated and general complaint of the inadequacy of municipal resources to maintain any high standard of administration combined with a general disinclination on the part of Municipal Boards to raise funds for the purpose. The aversion to higher taxation during 1918-19 is intelligible, as the year coincided with economic stress, but it is noticeable that this aversion persists during times of prosperity as well as in lean years. Many Boards have only elementary ideas of the duties and responsibilities of municipal administration, and are content with an income barely sufficient for the minimum requirements of municipal administration: in over one-fourth of the municipalities the incidence of taxation is under Re. 1 per head.

The Calcutta Municipality continued to be administered capably. A Bill for the amendment of the law governing the constitution of the Corporation and regulating its administration, which had been prepared at the instance of the Corporation, was withdrawn as the Corporation and other public bodies and associations were opposed to the constitution proposed as not being of a sufficiently democratic character. In deference to these representations it was decided not to proceed further with the Bill but to prepare another amending measure dealing solely with reforms of an administrative nature outside the field of political controversy.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples.
Historical Summary.
Form of Administration.
Character of Land Tenures : System of Surveys and Settlement.
Civil Divisions and British Territory.
Details of the last Census, Tribes and Languages.

See—

General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, Pages 1—134.

Changes in the Administration.

Executive Council.

The Hon'ble Sir S. P. (now Lord) Sinha was on deputation in England from the 14th May 1918 to the 3rd November 1918 and again from the 17th November 1918 to the 15th January 1919. The Hon'ble Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, acted as a temporary Member of the Bengal Executive Council during the Hon'ble Sir S. P. Sinha's absence ; and on the latter's appointment as Under-Secretary of State for India succeeded to the permanent vacancy on the 16th January 1919.

Legislative Council.

2. In view of impending constitutional changes, the term of office of existing Additional Members of the Bengal Legislative Council was extended up to the 13th June 1920.

Relations with the Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

COOCH BEHAR.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1918-19.]

(Area, 1,307 square miles ; chief produce, rice, jute and tobacco ; population, 592,952 ; military force, 202 men and 4 guns ; annual revenue, Rs. 29,36,919. Ruling Chief—Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur ; family Tibetan or Dravidian origin ; residence, Cooch Behar).

His Excellency the Viceroy's visit to the State.

3. His Excellency the Viceroy paid a visit to the State in December 1918.

Birth of a son.

4. A second son was born to His Highness on the 6th July 1918.

Council.

5. The constitution of the State Council remained unchanged. On the Executive side 21 meetings were held against 19 of the previous year. At 19 of these the Maharaja presided.

On the Judicial side. the Council held 21 meetings, against 27 of the previous year. No meeting of the Legislative Council was held during the year.

State Railway.

6. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway amounted to Rs. 3,20,526, while the working expenses were Rs. 1,48,495 The net earnings were 7·48 on the capital outlay against 6·1 of the previous year.

Finance. 7. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 29,36,919 against Rs. 28,10,369 in the previous year, while the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 28,39,222 against Rs. 29,71,377. The closing balance, inclusive of Government money and deposits, was Rs. 10,77,079.

Crops and condition of the people. 8. The jute crop, on account of the fluctuation in the rainfall, yielded an outturn of only 50 per cent. of the normal, and prices ranged between Rs. 3 and Rs. 12 per maund. The outturn of Haimanti crops was slightly below normal, and prices ranged between Rs. 3 and Rs. 5-10 per maund. There was a full crop of tobacco which sold at Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per maund.

The general condition of the people was unsatisfactory largely owing to the abnormal rise in prices of imported articles.

Criminal Justice. 9. The total number of cases reported during the year was 2,328 against 2,699 in the preceding year. The percentage of conviction to total number of persons tried was 64·12 against 65·13 of the previous year. The number of persons admitted into jails was 359 as compared with 419 in the previous year.

Education. 10. The number of subdivisional higher English schools was 4 as in the previous year, but the total number of pupils attending them fell from 1,090 to 1,007. The total number of recognised primary schools was 305 against 318 in the previous year.

The Victoria College continued to make satisfactory progress.

Public health. 11. There were outbreaks of cholera and small-pox in almost all the subdivisions, and there were many deaths from influenza, which raged throughout the State during the winter.

HILL TIPPERA.

[Administration Report of Hill Tippera for the year 1918-19.]

(Area 4,116 square miles; population 229,613; revenue from the State, Rs. 12,16,926; revenue from zamindaries in British territory, Rs. 9,84,462; chief products—rice and cotton; military strength 234, including officers; present Maharaja—His Highness Maharaja Manikya Birendra Kishore Deb Barman Bahadur, Maharaja of Hill Tippera, aged 36 years; family Indo-Chinese; caste Kshatriya; has male heir; residence Agartala.)

Title. 12. The title of "Maharaja" as an hereditary distinction was conferred upon His Highness on the 1st January 1919.

Political Agent, War Gifts. 13. Mr. J. Bartley, I.C.S., continued as Political Agent.

14. During the year under report the war contribution of one lakh o rupees promised by His Highness the Maharaja of Hill Tippera was paid into the Tippera Treasury. In addition to this amount other contributions and gifts to the extent of Rs. 17,273, including the annual contribution of Rs. 15,000, have been made by His Highness.

Revenue and Finance. 15. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 12,16,926 against Rs. 10,39,419 in the previous year, and Rs. 10,47,334, the average of the preceding five years. The gross receipts of the State and the attached zamindaries amounted to Rs. 22,01,388, and with law charges recovered, refunds and deposits the total amount was Rs. 31,29,429. The total expenditure was Rs. 22,72,996.

Protection. 16. The total number of offences reported to the police was 1,090 against 1,243 in the preceding year; the number of persons arrested and sent up was 429 and 441, respectively. Of 441 persons sent up, 194 were convicted and 141 persons were under trial at the close of the year. The percentage of stolen property recovered was 44·19 against 33·1 in the preceding year.

Weather and Crops. 17. The rainfall was 93·83 inches against 77·04 inches of the preceding year, and 94·56 inches, the average of the preceding five years. The heavy rains in the first part of the year had a good effect on the early paddy crop. The condition of the winter rice crop was also on the whole good, but the failure of the winter rains injuriously affected the *rabi* crops.

Public health. 18. During the year there were severe epidemics of influenza and cholera, besides an outbreak of small-pox; the number of persons who died from influenza was approximately 3,500.

Condition of the people.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1918-19.]

Agricultural classes.

19. The year under report started not unfavourably. Though the prices of imported necessaries and of cloth were high, the prices of foodstuffs were low and stocks were large, due both to the bumper harvest of the previous year and to the lack of facilities for exports during the war. This, on the other hand, gave cause for complaint. Later on in the year the situation took a turn for the worse. The general causes of this were four-fold. The rise in prices in other countries, owing to the war, a rise which had resulted from the reduction in the production of the necessaries of life in the combatant countries and from an inflation of currency, began at the close of the war to have a sympathetic effect on prices in India; the general failure of the monsoon throughout India led to actual famine in other provinces; the particular failure of the monsoon in Bengal produced a short crop of rice; and the outbreaks of influenza took a heavy toll of the people. In consequence of the first three causes, the prices of foodstuffs, including that of rice, rapidly rose. This rise was the more keenly felt by persons on small fixed incomes. Such prices did not, however, rise during the year—which ends on the 31st March—to the heights they subsequently attained in this province, or to those reached in other provinces, whilst they were prevented from rising to the heights obtaining in foreign countries by the restrictions placed on exports to those countries. Moreover, despite exports of rice to other provinces which were in worse straits than Bengal, there was no shortage of rice.

In particular areas the material condition of the people was also affected by certain visitations of nature. In the Rajshahi Division such a flood as has not occurred for half a century traversed the districts of Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Bogra and Pabna, causing much damage to crops, homesteads and cattle, particularly in the districts of Rajshahi and Bogra. Relief was, however, promptly rendered. A high and prolonged flood, followed by a long drought, in the subdivision of Brahmanbaria in the district of Tippera damaged the standing crops and delayed the transplantation of winter rice, with the result that relief measures had to be organised towards the end of the year. Floods in the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Faridpur affected the jute and rice crops, whilst the earthquake of the 8th July 1918 did a certain amount of damage in the eastern districts of the province. The failure of the crops in Bankura was so widespread that operations had to be started in that district for the relief of the distress which, subsequent to the year under report, developed into famine. Agriculturists' loans to the extent of 6⅓ lakhs were advanced during the year.

The end of the year under report, therefore, appears to have been unusually black, but it must be remembered that there were many districts which did not suffer from the peculiar visitations referred to in the last paragraph, and that persons engaged in trade and the cultivator with surplus stocks benefited by the rise in the price of foodstuffs.

Wages and salaries.

20. The demand for labour, both skilled and unskilled, was great, and the labouring classes had plenty of work and earned good wages in the mills and factories in Hooghly and Howrah and in the coal-mines at Asansol. Persons with small fixed incomes suffered severely on account of the general rise in the prices of imported articles in consequence of the war.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1918-19.]

Total collections.

21. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 98,107 against 97,806 in the previous year. Of these 92,133 were permanently-settled estates, 3,585 temporarily-settled estates, and 2,389 estates held direct by Government. The current demand of the year amounted to Rs. 2,79,27,827 showing an increase of Rs. 70,927 as compared with the previous year. The increase was due mostly to new settlements, resettlements and progressive increase of demands in temporarily-settled and Government estates. The total realisable demand of the year, including the arrear of Rs. 23,46,307, was Rs. 3,02,74,134 out of which the amount collected was Rs. 2,80,84,829, being 92·76 per cent. of the total and 100·56 per cent. of the current demand, against 91·96 and 97·99 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. A sum of Rs. 1,40,563, though collected within the year, could not be credited in the accounts of the year. In Bakarganj, again, as noticed in previous years, a large amount (Rs. 3,94,335) could not be credited to land revenue during the year pending disposal of a civil suit against Government. The total remissions aggregated Rs. 72,101 against Rs. 66,429 in the previous year. The bulk of these was allowed as usual in the estates held direct by Government for such causes as failure of crops, diluvion, non-settlement of holdings and errors in accounts.

Collections in (a) Permanently-settled estates.

22. The total demand of the permanently-settled estates amounted to Rs. 2,19,16,863 (Rs. 2,15,74,813 current and Rs. 3,42,050 arrear) and of which Rs. 2,16,59,825 or 98·82 per cent. was collected. The current collections reached 98 per cent. or more in all districts except Bakarganj (96·53) and Tippera (94·95). Of the total balance of Rs. 83,133 in Bakarganj Rs. 65,273 was due from the Tagore Estate, under the management of the Court of Wards, which, owing to its bad financial condition, could not pay up its dues. Out of the outstanding balance of Rs. 46,999 in Tippera Rs. 46,162 was realised in Dacca, but the remittance transfer receipt was received in the former district after the close of the year.

(b) Temporarily-settled estates.

23. Temporarily-settled estates are divided into three sub-classes :—(*1*) private estates settled with proprietors, (*2*) private estates leased to farmers, and (*3*) Government estates leased to farmers. The total collections from all these three classes amounted to Rs. 17,37,805, being 95·01 per cent. of the current demand of Rs. 18,28,926 against 95·09 per cent. in the previous year. Of the total outstanding balance of Rs. 6,00,128, Bakarganj alone was responsible for Rs. 4,28,824 owing, as in previous year, to large sums, though realised, being not credited pending disposal of a civil suit.

Estates held direct by Government.

24. The estates held direct by Government comprise two sub-classes :—(*1*) estates belonging to private proprietors but managed by Government, and (*2*) those owned by Government as proprietor. The total demand of these estates amounted to Rs. 60,18,510 (current Rs. 45,24,088 and arrear Rs. 14,94,422), of which Rs. 46,87,199 or 77·87 per cent. was collected, Rs. 70,977 remitted, and Rs. 12,60,334 left unrealised at the close of the year. A sum of Rs. 92,650 was collected during the year, but could not be credited in the accounts. Both current and arrear collections showed better results, being 80·04 and 71·31 per cent. against 75·58 and 62·99 per cent., respectively, in the previous year.

Miscellaneous land revenue.

25. The total collections amounted to Rs. 24,57,337 against Rs. 27,93,748 in the preceding year. The decrease is mainly due to the smaller recoveries during the year under the heads "Recovery of survey and settlement charges" and "Sale of Government lands." Out of the total collections of Rs. 2,06,567 under "Other receipts" a sum of Rs. 57,325 was realised from the Burdwan estate on account of *pulbandi* contribution.

Changes in the land revenue demand of temporarily-settled estates and estates under direct management.

26. There was a net increase of 8,092 acres in the area of land settled and of Rs. 71,328 in revenue.

Redemption of land revenue.

27. The total number of petty estates and holdings, the land revenue of which was redeemed during the year, was 452 against 328 in the preceding year. These were mostly permanently-settled holdings in the Government estates of Calcutta and its suburbs. The total amount of land revenue redeemed was Rs. 841, and the price realised aggregated Rs. 25,224 against Rs. 586 and Rs. 17,157, respectively, in the previous year. There was no case of redemption under the Partition Act of 1876.

Remittance of land revenue and rent by money-orders.

28. The number of special money-orders issued during the year for remittance of land revenue and cesses and the amount covered by them increased from Rs. 2,26,206 and Rs. 20,07,860 in 1917-18 to Rs. 2,30,203 and Rs. 20,54,538, respectively. The increase during the year under report may be attributed to the popularity of this system of payment. The average value of each order was Rs. 8·92.

Coercive measures— (a) Sale laws.

29. The number of defaults and sales during the year was 14,718 and 1,319, respectively. The price realised by sale was eight times the Government revenue. One hundred and seventy-eight appeals were filed before the Commissioners against sales. In thirty-one cases sales were annulled by the Commissioners under section 2 of Bengal Act, VII of 1868, and in sixteen cases by the Board, under section 26 of Act XI of 1859, as amended by the Decentralization Act, 1914.

(b) Certificate procedure.

30. The total number of certificates (exclusive of those for cesses dealt with in Chapter V), filed during the year, rose from 56,734 to 63,235. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of to the total number for disposal was 75·1 against 75·4 in the previous year, the number of cases pending at the close of the year being 20,285 as against 18,508 at the end of 1917-18. In the majority of cases payment was made on the issue of notices or on attachment of property, and actual sale was necessary in only 4,138 cases, or 6·7 per cent. of the total number of cases (61,455) disposed of during the year.

Realization of Government and other demands by imprisonment.

31. Of the 44 persons committed to Civil jails in the enforcement of certificates, 24 were imprisoned for non-payment of Government demands and the remainder for withholding sums due to District Boards and Court of Wards, etc.

Processes.

32. The total number of processes served was 966,757 against 953,654 in the preceding year. The process fees realised amounted to Rs. 3,75,976 against Rs. 3,84,477 in the preceding year, and the total cost of service, including the pay of the supervising establishment debitable to land revenue, was Rs. 2,62,058 against Rs. 2,22,772 in the previous year. The cost of the process-serving establishment exceeded the receipts from fees in the districts of Nadia, Jessore, Khulna, Mymensingh, Bakarganj, Dinajpur, Bogra and Pabna. The increase was mainly due to the payment of war allowance to the peons. The system of fines and rewards for bad and good work is reported to have worked well. The system of serving processes by dafadars through president panchayats was in force in the districts of Birbhum, Hooghly, Dacca, Tippera and Jessore and in parts of the districts of Burdwan, the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Khulna, Faridpur and Rangpur. The system is reported to have worked satisfactorily on the whole except in the districts of Hooghly and Khulna. The system is reported to have been practically discontinued in the Sadar and Ranaghat subdivisions of Nadia, in order to serve the processes under the Certificate Act through the permanent peons for facility of recording affidavits in case of non-personal service.

OTHER REVENUE WORK.

Land Registration.

33. The total number of proprietary interests entered in the land registration registers of the Presidency was 966,637 at the beginning of the year, as against 974,287 at its close. The applications for registration of

succession to proprietary interests in land by purchase, inheritance, gift or otherwise were 34,645, of which 31,891 were granted before the close of the year. The number of old interests removed and new interests recorded were 31,275 and 38,935, respectively. The number of undisposed of cases at the close of the year was 9,847, of which 44 only, as against 107 of the previous year, were pending for more than six months. Most of these long pending cases have since been disposed of.

Partitions.

34. There were 285 cases pending at the close of the preceding year, and 46 cases were instituted during the year. Out of the total of 331 cases for disposal, 79 cases were disposed of and 252 cases remained pending at the end of the year. Of these, 157 cases are pending for more than two years. Special officers were employed during the year exclusively on partition work in Mymensingh, Faridpur, Rajshahi and Dinajpur. Estates Partition Funds exist only in the districts of Jessore, Dacca and Mymensingh. It has been decided to close the Partition Fund in Jessore as being unnecessary. The incidence of cost per acre of the area partitioned during the year in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh was 14 annas 3 pies in the former, and 2 annas $\frac{1}{8}$ pie in the latter. The high cost in Dacca is due to the fact that most of the cases disposed of during the year were filed in the Settlement Office prior to 1914-15 and were not made over to the Collector till shortly before that officer left the district. The proceedings in those cases were consequently delayed which resulted in increased expenditure.

Land acquisition.

35. Proceedings for the acquisition on behalf of Government, local bodies and companies, of land covering an area of 4,098 acres were confirmed at a total cost of Rs. 59,97,449 as against an area of 2,670 acres, at a cost of Rs. 23,15,521 in the preceding year. Of the total expenditure incurred a sum of Rs. 41,65,913 was paid for the acquisition of lands required for Government, including State Railways and Companies' Railways provided with land free of cost, and Rs. 18,31,537 for all other purposes, viz., for District Boards, Municipalities, Calcutta Improvement Trust, Calcutta Port Commissioners and Railways and other Companies. The average cost per acre of the lands for which acquisition proceedings were confirmed during the year was Rs. 1,463 against Rs. 867 in the preceding year. The increase in the average cost is chiefly due to the fact that proceedings for the acquisition of more valuable town lands in Dacca, Chittagong and Tippera were confirmed during the year.

Loans—(a) Land Improvement Loans Act.

36. The amount of loans outstanding at the beginning of the year was Rs. 1,92,129 and loans amounting to Rs. 33,350 were advanced during the year under report. Out of the sum advanced during the year Rs. 20,000 were advanced to the tenants of the colonization area in the district of Bakarganj. Of Rs. 2,25,479 the total outstanding principal of Rs. 72,242 was repayable during the year. Out of this Rs. 56,568 was realised, including Rs. 272 collected in advance, while Rs. 325 was remitted. The balance outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 1,68,588 (including Rs. 4,273 under suspension), of which Rs. 11,348 was overdue. Of Rs. 11,557 due on account of interest, current and arrear, the collection during the year amounted to Rs. 9,475.

(b) Agriculturists' Loans Act.

37. The amount advanced during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans Act was Rs. 6,33,085. The largest sums were issued in the districts of Rajshahi (Rs. 2,31,696), Tippera (Rs. 1,64,953), Bogra (Rs. 1,49,200) and Bankura (Rs. 36,780). In Rajshahi and Bogra there was severe distress on account of floods during the autumn of 1918. In Tippera a large amount was distributed in the Brahmanbaria Subdivision on account of distress towards the close of the year, and in Bankura the amount advanced represents loans to agriculturists and others who suffered from scarcity prevailing in the district. The outstanding balance of the previous year was Rs. 7,14,328 making the aggregate amount outstanding Rs. 13,47,413, of which Rs. 6,99,052 was recoverable within the year. The total collections amounted to Rs. 1,72,752, including Rs. 1,395 paid in advance and in excess, and Rs. 120 was remitted. The balance recoverable in future years is Rs. 11,74,541 (including Rs. 3,97,731 under suspension), of which Rs. 1,29,844 was overdue at the end of the year. The amounts overdue in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Mymensingh and Noakhali are heavy. Of Rs. 85,337 due on account of interest, current and arrear, Rs. 19,627 was collected.

Surveys.

[Report of the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1918.]

Outturn of the year.

38. The district of Nadia was taken up for survey and an area of 715 square miles was traversed. The total area traversed in the districts of Jessore, Nadia, Bankura and Burdwan was 2,134 square miles. In Jessore and Bankura lost stations of the original traverse survey of 1914-15 were refixed in an area of 1,028 square miles. The riverain tracts lying between the districts of Jessore and Faridpur on the east, and Jessore and Khulna on the south, together with ten villages recently transferred from Jessore to Faridpur, were also traversed. Comparative maps for 469 square miles of diara land falling between the districts of Rajshahi, Murshidabad and Malda were prepared. Miscellaneous work connected with the survey and mapping of Howrah and Cossipore-Chitpur Municipalities and isolated areas in various parts was also undertaken. Nearly a million and a half village maps were reproduced by the Vandyke process, and some progress was also made in the production of jurisdiction maps.

Land Records and Settlements.

[Annual Report of the Director of Land Records for the year ending the 30th September 1918.]

General.

39. Cadastral survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights, under the supervision of the Director of Land Records, were in progress in 16 districts, including Bankura and Jessore in which operations postponed in 1915 were resumed. The area cadastrally surveyed was 2,535 square miles. The settled area of the province in which the Bengal Tenancy Act is in force is 66,889 square miles. The total area of which a record-of-rights has been completed is 30,203 square miles.

Major Settlements. Dacca. Mymensingh. Midnapore.

40. Major settlements were in progress in 8 districts, viz., Dacca, Mymensingh, Midnapore, Rajshahi, Tippera-Noakhali, Jessore, and Bankura. The operations in Dacca were finished during the year. In Mymensingh they were nearly completed except for the disposal of a certain amount of case-work, some recovery and resumption proceedings under Act IX of 1847, in particular, in the Jamuna diara for which special arrangements have been made. The remarkably large number of applications for enhancement of rent prevented the conclusion of the operations in Midnapore, although as many as 113,109 tenancies were dealt with.

Rajshahi.

41. In Rajshahi the records of the last and fifth block, comprising the diara areas of Malda and Murshidabad districts, were attested, objections disposed of and final scrutiny completed. Case-work was in progress in the first block.

Tippera-Noakhali.

42. The operations in Tippera and Noakhali were in their intermediate stages. Cadastral survey and stages up to the field-to-field verification of the map and the record were completed in all the remaining portions of Tippera district in thanas Muradnagar, Chanduria, Laksam, Comilla and Chauddagram. The progress of attestation was such that after the year's programme was finished it was found possible, with the assent of the landlords, to attest in advance of the programme the records of the area surveyed during the year. It is noteworthy that even in this settlement—previous accounts of which tended to the conclusion that the raiyat in the districts of Tippera and Noakhali possesses an unusual power of looking after his own interests—illegal enhancements of rent on a large scale and impediments placed by landlords in the way of their tenants, when the latter were seeking to make improvements in the village water-supply were discovered.

Jessore.

43. In Jessore cadastral survey and initial record writing were completed in 839 square miles, together with the field-to-field verification in 535 square miles. The shifting of rivers and khals was responsible for some of the most troublesome boundary disputes.

Bankura.

44. In Bankura 971 square miles lying in the south of the district was finished up to the verification stage. Produce-rents are common in the

district, and instances are not rare where a fowl or even a single vegetable has been recorded as the rent of an acre of land.

Minor operations.

45. Minor operations were scattered over 8 districts, and a considerable amount of diara resumption and settlement of land revenue was accomplished in the course of both major and minor operations. A scheme of maintenance was sanctioned for the Enaitpur Mahal of the Mathurapur Estate in the district of Malda with a view to allowing the proprietor the advantage of the certificate procedure under section 158A of the Bengal Tenancy Act for collecting his rents in the 10 annas share of the estate which was not under the Court of Wards. In the Fatehsingh Estate of the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad the first year's working of a somewhat similar scheme was carried through with a smoothness and economy which are very encouraging for the future.

Boundary marks.

46. Out of a total of 32,759 marks 17,352, *i.e.*, about 53 per cent., were inspected. In the Wards Estates and in zamindari estates 273 and 76 missing marks were replaced at a cost of Rs. 253 and Rs. 684, respectively. Preliminary arrangements were completed for making over to the panchayets and dafadars the boundary and survey marks erected in the course of district operations in Faridpur, Dacca and Midnapore.

Guide and Glossary to Survey and Settlement Records in Bengal.

47. A useful brochure entitled "Guide and Glossary to Survey and Settlement Records in Bengal" explaining in plain language the different stages of the operations together with the law involved was published at a small price.

Final Reports.

48. The Final Reports on five petty settlements were completed and in addition, Mr. Jameson's report on the operations in Midnapore, which equals any of its predecessors in historical and literary merit, was forwarded to Government.

Waste Lands.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for 1918-19.]

Waste lands.

49. The rules for the grant of waste land leases to large capitalists remained in abeyance in the 24-Parganas and Khulna—portions of the Sundarbans. Raiyatwari settlement on the lines of the Bakarganj colonization scheme is in progress in certain Sundarbans lots, in the former district, under the supervision of a special officer.

The total number of leases granted under the large Capitalists' Rules of 1897 and under those of 1853 was the same as before, *viz.*, 188 and 93, respectively, in the 24-Parganas, and 22 and 38, respectively, in Khulna. The revenue payable during the year in respect of these was Rs. 1,38,269 and Rs. 80,163, respectively, in the former district, and Rs. 12,597 and Rs. 54,076, respectively, in the latter. The number of leases granted in Saugor Islands was 6 as in the previous year. In Jalpaiguri one lease was granted under the Arable Waste Land Lease Rules.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1918-19.]

Number and management.

50. The total number of estates under direct management, including those of private individuals managed by Government, was 2,387 (inclusive of 12 estates comprising resumed Pharidari lands under settlement), and the aggregate annual demand payable by these estates amounted to Rs. 43,87,096 (excluding that of the Orphanganj Market, Hastings Estate and Madhab Babu's Bazar in the 24-Parganas). The percentage of cost of management on the current demand was 7·76. A scheme for the reorganization of the Khas Mahal Department of Contai in Midnapore was submitted to Government for sanction. The essential features of the scheme are (*i*) that the Baruas should be abolished, (*ii*) that the existing system of collection by tahsildars on payment by commission should be replaced by one of tahsildars on fixed salaries, *plus* commission at 2 per cent. on any sums realised by them in excess of

two-thirds of the demand, and (*iii*) that the present Sub-Managers, who are all outside the general line, should be gradually replaced by Sub-Deputy Collectors with settlement experience when the former officers retire or otherwise quit their posts. Proposals for the reorganization of the Khas Mahals and the Tahsildari establishment of Dacca and for the revision of pay of the Khas Mahal establishments of Jalpaiguri were also submitted to Government. The rights of the talukdars in seven Government estates, included in the Marichbunia group of estates in the district of Bakarganj, was, on the application of the talukdars themselves, submitted to Government for sanction.

Grant for improvements.

51. Of the total amount of Rs. 1,76,969 expended on improvements a sum of Rs. 39,942 was spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 59,257 on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 14,507 on roads and bridges and the remainder (Rs. 63,263) on miscellaneous items of improvements, including planting of trees.

Colonization in the Bakarganj Sundarbans.

52. The year under report was the 12th year in the history of the colonization scheme in the Bakarganj portion of the Sundarbans. No new colonists were settled in the Sundarbans during the year. An area of 3,357·29 acres of land was surveyed during the last cold weather and papers are under preparation for assessment, while about 2,290 acres of land were reclaimed during the year. The expenditure incurred during the year on the scheme amounted to Rs. 52,124, a sum of Rs. 20,000 was advanced to the colonists as land improvement loans, and Rs. 5,000 as agricultural loans, while the realizations in respect of the two kinds of loans were Rs. 1,615 and Rs. 4,327 respectively. There were altogether 40 co-operative credit societies in the colonized area, including two registered, during the year.

Roads.

53. An aggregate sum of Rs. 3,18,756 was spent on roads and communications in Government estates against the Government grant of Rs. 76,489 being the one-and-half per cent. on collections from these estates allotted for the purpose. The excess expenditure was met from District Boards and other local funds.

There were altogether 2,404 schools in Government estates with 77,077 pupils during the year against the corresponding figures of 2,361 and 76,648, respectively, in the preceding year. The increase both in the number of schools and of pupils occurred mainly in the Presidency, Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions.

Education.

54. The total expenditure on education in Government estates amounted to Rs. 81,451 against the one per cent. grant of Rs. 50,993 assigned for the purpose, the excess expenditure being met from local funds.

Sale of estates.

55. The proprietary right of Government in two estates only was sold during the year. One of these was sold free of revenue at a price of Rs. 28 and the other for Rs. 125 with its revenue of Rs. 33-8 fixed in perpetuity. In addition to the above two plots of circular canal surplus land of Panchannogram in the district of the 24-Parganas, covering an area of less than an acre, were transferred to the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities and to the Calcutta Improvement Trust at their full market value of Rs. 1,454 and Rs. 57, respectively. Two plots of escheated land in Rajshahi were also sold for Rs. 286 only.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[Report on the administration of Wards' and Attached Estates for the year 1918-19 (1325 B. S.).]

Number of estates and payment of Government demand.

56. The total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the beginning of the year was 64, excluding some petty properties lying in the district of Mymensingh belonging to the Pallakandi Estate in Sylhet and including three small estates owned by some members of the Nawab family of Dacca. During the year four new estates were taken charge of and one estate was released. The number of estates in charge of the Court thus stood at 69 at the close of the year.

The total amount of revenue and cesses due to Government, including an arrear demand of Rs. 1,02,320, was Rs. 14,69,169, of which 92·9 per cent. was paid as in the previous year.

Rent and cess due to superior landlords.

57. The percentage of payment of rent and cesses due to superior landlords showed some falling off, being 82·5 per cent. of the amount due, against 84·8 per cent. in the previous year, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,12,278 out of a total demand of Rs. 6,44,581. The heaviest balances were due from the Bhawal Estate (Rs. 27,372) in the district of Dacca, and the Karatiya Estate (Rs. 16,579) in Mymensingh, the Bharat Chandra Saha's Estate (Rs. 8,522) in Noakhali, the Desmina Estate (Rs. 7,454) in Bakarganj and the Paschimgaon Estate (Rs. 7,100) in the district of Tippera. The balances were mostly due to disputes, non-adjustment of accounts and accumulation of petty dues allowed by superior landlords.

Collection of rent and cesses.

58. The demand for rent and cesses due to the estates under management during the year was returned at Rs. 1,15,89,350, including an arrear demand of Rs. 70,27,403. Out of this Rs. 47,29,553 or 40·8 per cent. was collected against 40·0 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage of collection on current demand slightly improved from 98·4 in the preceding year to 103·5. The standard of 100 per cent. collection on current demand was exceeded in 40 estates against 20 in the previous year. The improvement in the percentage of collection was mainly contributed by the Nawab Family estates in Dacca and the estates in the Rajshahi Division. The distress caused by flood and drought in the Brahmanbaria Subdivision of the district of Tippera affected the collection in the Tippera portion of the Kasimbazar Estate.

Balances of rent and cesses due to estates.

59. The outstanding balances of rent and cesses due to all estates aggregated to Rs. 67,24,062 representing 147·2 per cent. on the current demand and 58·01 on the total demand, against 141·5 per cent. and 57·6 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. The balances exceeded the current demand in all the divisions and exceeded 25 per cent. on the current demand in all but six estates in Bakarganj, one in Chittagong and one in the district of Dinajpur. The percentage of total balances on the current demand was 135·3 in the Burdwan, 115·9 in the Presidency, 172·5 in the Dacca, 118·2 in the Chittagong and 139·4 in the Rajshahi Division. These figures show an increase in all the divisions, except Dacca. The outstanding balance of rent and cesses of the Pachetgarh Estate at the close of the year was Rs. 2,38,282. It is reported that the Manager is awaiting final publication of the settlement records for the purpose of judging what balances are irrecoverable and should be written off. The large outstanding balance in the Nayabasan Estate is attributed to the bad outturn of crop. Out of the outstanding balance of Rs. 66,318 in the Basudebpur Estate Rs. 19,995 is reported to be time-barred and Rs. 15,969 as disputed. The time-barred amount is under remission. The heavy balance in the Tagore Estate is due to the non-remission of irrecoverable demands in view of the expected sale of the estate which has now been completed. The outstanding balance in the Bhawal Estate is very heavy. The heavy balance in the Tippera portion of the Kasimbazar Estate as well as in the Paschimgaon Estate is explained by the fact that the year under report was a remarkably bad year for the district. A large percentage of these balances, about 36 per cent., is, however, fictitious or irrecoverable.

Debts of estates.

60. With a few exceptions all the estates in the Presidency are more or less heavily encumbered. The total debts of all the Wards' Estates stood at Rs. 58,36,946 against Rs. 81,71,983 in the previous year. The decrease of Rs. 23,35,037 is due largely to the exclusion of the claims preferred by the proprietors of the Bhawal Estate against one another, a considerable amount of which has proved to be fictitious. The indebtedness of the Wards' estates formed a special subject of scrutiny by the Board of Revenue during the year. The examination of the debts of the estates in the Burdwan, Presidency and Rajshahi Divisions has been completed, and, as the result, the Commissioners have been asked to submit schemes for the regular and systematic repayment of the debts of the estates. The Board has also prescribed, with the approval of Government, two new appendices on the annual report which will show clearly the financial position of each of the estates under the management of the Court of Wards and the progress in the repayment of debts in the Burdwan Division, the debt of the Pachetgarh Estate, which stood at Rs. 1,59,136 at the time it came under the management of the Court of Wards in 1905, had been reduced to Rs. 30,545 up to the end of the year under

report. The Jhargram Estate was taken in charge in 1907 with a debt of Rs. 6,33,505; up to the close of the year under report, the debt was reduced to Rs. 3,60,061, a sum of Rs. 64,588, including interest, having been repaid during the year; repayment is being made regularly according to a sanctioned scheme. The Basudebpur Estate was taken in charge in 1916. Up to the close of the year under report the debt has been reduced from Rs. 2,79,678 to Rs. 1,43,335; a sum of Rs. 23,733 was paid as interest during the year. The Mukharjee Estate was taken charge in 1903 with a debt of Rs. 2,93,317; this was reduced to Rs. 1,00,000 by the close of the year under report. The repayment was mostly made by the sale of properties belonging to the estate. The annual surplus income is not large enough to ensure early repayment of the debt. Panihati Estate No. I was taken in charge in 1904 with a debt of Rs. 80,908. By the close of the year under report it stood at Rs. 13,500. Part payment of the debt was made by the sale of properties belonging to the estate. In the Dacca Division, the total debt of the estate of the late Nawab Sir Salimullah Bahadur of Dacca was reduced to Rs. 9,46,289 in the year. The Board is in communication with the local officers for the purpose of preparing a workable scheme for the repayment of the debt of the estate within a reasonable number of years. The Board is also preparing a scheme for the repayment of the debt of the estate of K. Attickullah which despite large repayments still stood at the close of the year at Rs. 7,34,984. Since the close of the year, the loan of Rs. 50,000 taken by the estate of K. M. Ashruff from the Dacca Municipality has been repaid, a part of the amount being advanced by one of the more solvent co-sharers of the estate. The Bhawal Estate was taken in charge in May 1911 with liabilities amounting to Rs. 16,30,167. Up to the close of the year under report the liabilities have been reduced to Rs. 93,342, repayment being made exclusively from the surplus income of the estate. The Karatiya Estate was taken in charge in August 1910 with liabilities amounting to Rs. 2,71,437; this has been reduced to Rs. 1,51,847, a reduction of about Rs. 10,128 being obtained by compromise and a sum of Rs. 15,512 being paid by the sale of house property in Calcutta. Golakpur Estate was taken in charge in September 1910 with a debt of Rs. 6,66,058 which up to the close of the year under report has been reduced only to Rs. 5,94,519, although payments to the extent of Rs. 4,24,606 have been made, the major portion of the amount being swallowed up by interest. The Sherpur Estate was taken in charge in February 1911 with liabilities of Rs. 1,24,371. Although up to the close of the year under report a sum of Rs. 1,60,069 has been paid, the debt has been reduced only to Rs. 1,03,440. In the district of Chittagong the debts of the estate of Salamat Ali Khan and Surendra Bijoy Ray stood at Rs. 10,018 and Rs. 11,500, respectively, at the close of the year, Rs. 4,667 and Rs. 5,643, including interest, being paid during the year. Bhukailash Estate No. I in Tippera was taken in charge in 1903 with a debt of Rs. 10,56,593. At the close of the year under report it stood at Rs. 2,27,090. The debt of the Kazi Estate, which stood at Rs. 1,18,596 at the date of assumption of charge by the Court in November 1911, has been reduced to Rs. 66,648. In the Rajshahi Division the Karmi Estate is the only encumbered estate. The debt stood at Rs. 28,608 at the close of the year and repayment is being made regularly in accordance with a systematic scheme.

Management charges.

61. The percentage of cost of management on the current rent and cess demand of estates for the whole Presidency decreased slightly from 13·2 in the preceding year to 13·1. The standard of 10 per cent. was exceeded in all the divisions except the Presidency Division. Of the high percentage (26·3) of cost in the Karatiya Estate 8 per cent. is due to the payment to the patwaries of the estate of a large sum as arrear commission on adjustment of their accounts. The high percentage in some of the estates in the district of Chittagong is explained by the fact that the properties are mostly small and scattered.

Improvements.

62. The standards fixed for expenditure on education and on agricultural and sanitary improvements are 1 and 3 per cent., respectively, on the current rent and cess demand of an estate. No standard has been fixed for expenditure on works of other kinds of improvement. The total amount expended during the year on all these heads by the Wards' Estates

in the whole Presidency aggregated Rs. 1,70,158 against Rs. 1,70,496 in the preceding year. As mentioned in previous years' reports, agricultural demonstrations in Wards' Estates are now conducted mostly under the supervision of officers of the Agricultural Department.

Lady Adviser.

63. Owing to the illness and leave of Miss Cornelia Sorabji, the Lady Adviser to the Court of Wards, there was little progress in the work of her office.

Education of Wards.

64. The progress made in the education of Wards, which is one of the special cares of the Court of Wards, was generally good. Two sons of Wards were sent to Survey and Settlement training camps and others are being trained in zamindari management so as to make them fit for, and useful in, their future position in life as resident proprietors.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1918-19.]

Bengal Tenancy Act.

65. The Bengal Tenancy Act is in force throughout the Presidency except the district of Darjeeling, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the town of Calcutta.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

66. Occasionally strained relations between landlords and tenants were noticeable in certain parts of the Presidency. This is generally attributed to enhancement of rent, illegal exactions, money-lending or disputes between co-sharer landlords. The settlement operations are said to have resulted in improving the position of the tenants in certain districts.

Rent receipts.

67. In 39 cases proceedings were taken for failure to grant rent receipts under the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Of these, 19 cases ended in conviction, 13 were struck off, dismissed or compromised and 7 were pending at the close of the year.

Illegal cesses.

68. The practice of levying illegal cesses or *abwabs* in some form or other in addition to stipulated rent was prevalent more or less throughout the Presidency. The tenants, as a rule, submit to these exactions without much demur in order to maintain amicable relations with their landlords and their agents. No regular suit was instituted under section 75 of the Bengal Tenancy Act to resist these illegal demands, and it is clear that the law as it exists is noperative. The extension of records-of-rights has, however, had a beneficial effect in restricting the levy of *abwabs*.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative Authorities.

See—

General Administration Report for 1912-13, Part II, Pages 13, 14.

Course of Legislation.

69. Five Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1918-19, of which the first four (viz., Bengal Act No. V of 1918 and Nos. I to III of 1919) became law during the year, and the last (viz., Bengal Act No. IV of 1919) shortly after the close of the year. These Acts were— **Acts passed during 1918-19.**

(*1*) *Bengal Act V of 1918.*—[The Chittagong Port (Amendment) Act, 1918.] This law was enacted for the purpose of improving the financial position of the Port of Chittagong, which was very unsatisfactory. The river dues imposed under section 58 of the Chittagong Port Act, 1914 (Bengal Act V of 1914), on all goods landed or shipped were limited to a maximum of four annas a ton; there is no such maximum limit in the Port of Calcutta, and power was taken to remove it at Chittagong.

(*2*) *Bengal Act I of 1919.*—[The Calcutta Hackney-carriage Act, 1919.] This Act—

(*a*) consolidates and amends the law relating to hackney-carriages and palanquins and also makes certain additions to, and amendments in, the Calcutta Hackney-carriage Act, 1891 (Bengal Act II of 1891), which experience has shown to be necessary for the improvement of the hackney-carriage service in Calcutta and elsewhere in Bengal; and

(*b*) brings within the scope of the Act rickshaws, which are being used in increasing numbers in Calcutta.

One important change made by the Act is the transfer of the control of hackney-carriages from the Corporation of Calcutta to the Commissioner of Police.

(*3*) *Bengal Act II of 1919.*—[The Bengal Juvenile Smoking Act, 1919.] This is the first enactment for which a non-official member of the Bengal Legislative Council has been responsible. Its object is to discourage cigarette smoking amongst juveniles.

(*4*) *Bengal Act III of 1919.*—[The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1919.] This Act provides that all impositions upon tenants, of road and public works cesses, in excess of the limits prescribed by clause (*2*) of section 41 of the Cess Act, 1880 (Bengal Act IX of 1880), or on any scale in excess of that prescribed by clause (*3*) of that section, shall be illegal.

(*5*) *Bengal Act IV of 1919.*—[The Bengal Primary Education Act, 1919.] The object of this Act is to extend primary education among the masses of the people in all municipalities and other selected areas in Bengal.

The Act effects this by making proper provision in the first place for the primary education of all children between six and eleven desirous of attending school under a voluntary system, and subsequently for the primary education of all boys between six and ten under a compulsory system. The Act also gives power to levy an education cess as a resource for voluntary education as well as for compulsory education.

70. The following three Bills were pending before the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1918-19 :— **Bills pending during 1918-19.**

(*1*) *The Calcutta Municipal Bill, 1917.*—The objects of this Bill, which was introduced in Council on the 20th November 1917, were mentioned in

the Bengal Administration Report for the year 1917-18, page 12. No further progress was made by the Council in respect of this Bill during the year under review.

(*2*) *The Bengal Village Self-Government Bill, 1918.*—This Bill was introduced in Council on the 4th April 1918, and was very widely circulated amongst Government officials as well as public bodies and associations, for opinions. The object of the Bill is to build up a system of rural self-government in Bengal based on village authorities vested with the powers and duties necessary for the management of communal village affairs, and entrusted with powers of self-taxation for that purpose.

It is also proposed by the Bill to confer jurisdiction in petty civil and criminal matters on these village authorities.

(*3*) *The Bengal Prevention of Adulteration Bill, 1918.*—This Bill was introduced in Council on the 3rd September 1918. Its object is to prevent the adulteration of food, particularly of articles of common consumption, such as milk, ghee, mustard-oil, etc., in areas in Bengal outside Calcutta.

Bengal Police.

[The Report on Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency for the year 1918. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Military Police.

71. The Military Police Battalion fully maintained its reputation for discipline and efficiency, in spite of many demands on its services for unaccustomed duties which interfered with its regular training. During the year sanction was received to the addition of a company to the battalion, and recruitment is now going on. Since the close of the year the General Officer Commanding the Presidency Brigade inspected the battalion, and remarked that the standard of drill and training was very satisfactory, considering that the battalion had, since the outbreak of the war, been without its full complement of military officers. It is hoped that this defect will soon be removed.

Administration.

72. The superior cadre of the service was increased during the year by the addition of an appointment of Additional Superintendent for the Faridpur district. Four temporary appointments of Deputy Superintendents were also made permanent.

The strength of the subordinate police force was increased by about 200 men, mainly in connection with the establishment of new investigating centres. The special armed force was increased in Chittagong, Dacca and Jalpaiguri, and after the close of the year sanction was given to an increase in the emergency force in Noakhali.

Recruitment.

73. The number of recruits enlisted during the year was 2,911, of whom 1,847 or 63 per cent. were Bengalis, a larger proportion than in any previous year. The improvement in local recruiting is very satisfactory, and would be more rapid but for the difficulty that a large proportion of the candidates for enlistment fail to come up to the required standard of height and chest measurement, though the latter had been reduced, in the case of Bengalis, to 30 inches. Steps are being taken to recruit men of the Bengali Regiment who desire to join the Police. The difficulty of securing up-country recruits is however increasing. The men who formerly enlisted now prefer employment in the mills and collieries, and though a special recruiting party was deputed to the United Provinces only 445 recruits were obtained. At the close of the year, there were over 500 vacancies among constables, 134 of which were in the district of the 24-Parganas where, as also in Howrah and Hooghly, it is difficult to induce local men to enlist. The probationary sub-inspectors appointed during the year included 40 graduates, and a few direct appointments were made in the rank of head-constables mostly from among candidates who had failed to secure sub-inspectorships. Sanction was given to a scheme for the direct appointment of graduates in law to the post of court inspector up to a limit of 10 per cent. of the annual vacancies.

The figures under the various heads of casualties rose from 1,999 to 2,898. The number of resignations rose from 666 in 1917 to 1,215 in the year under review. This large increase is attributed to various causes, not the

least important of which is the refusal of leave on account of the inadequacy of the leave reserve. An increase in the scale of the ordinary reserve of head-constables and constables recently sanctioned by the Secretary of State will improve the position in this respect.

The year was particularly unhealthy on account of the wide outbreak of influenza all over the country. An increase in mortality was therefore inevitable, while admissions into hospital rose by 1,440.

Discipline.

74. There was a further increase in the number of officers and men who were rewarded either in money or with good service marks, and the amount of money disbursed in this way exceeded that spent last year by more than Rs. 13,000. The proportion of officers and men judicially punished for all offences remained stationary at 1·3 per cent. of the force. Of the 450 criminal cases against the police which were disposed of during the year, only 57 ended in conviction. Five police officers were accused of torture, but it is satisfactory that none of these charges were proved, while, with the exception of two sub-inspectors convicted of extortion and one constable convicted of bribery, the majority of the cases in which convictions were obtained were petty offences committed by constables. Of 30 civil suits instituted against the police, 17 were dismissed and 13 were pending at the close of the year.

River Police.

75. During the year, the river police fleet was strengthened by the addition of five steam launches, two floating thanas, one *pansway* boat, four *ghasi* and forty-one *dinghi* boats. Twelve more launches are still required to complete the number sanctioned. The river police patrols have been able to effect a marked decrease in river crime in several districts. A notorious river dacoit, who was arrested during the year, admitted that owing to the effective patrolling of the larger rivers, he and his fellow criminals had shifted the scene of their operations to the khals and smaller rivers. As usual, a feature of the work of the river police was the rescue of boats and crews in stormy weather. Altogether the officers and men of the river police rescued 78 persons from drowning in many cases at great personal risk.

Village Police.

76. The reports on the working of the village police are on the whole satisfactory. The dafadari system, inaugurated in the Madaripur subdivision of the Faridpur district in 1914 as an experiment, has achieved a considerable measure of success. In Dacca, the panchayats continued to co-operate with the police in successful preventive work. In spite of the remarks made on this subject in previous years, there are still indications that in some districts, insufficient liberality is shown in rewarding chaukidars for good work.

Expenditure.

77. The amount spent on the police during the year 1918-19 was Rs. 1,05,83,092 as against Rs. 99,22,652 in the previous year, the increase being due mainly to additions to the force. A sum of Rs. 18 lakhs was spent on police buildings. The whole of the special grant given by the Government of India for non-recurring expenditure in connection with the reorganisation of the police in the area which now forms the Presidency of Bengal has been spent, and any further expenditure on police buildings will have to be met from provincial revenues. No final estimate of the total cost of putting the police buildings of the province on a satisfactory footing has been drawn up, but the estimated cost of the works administratively approved for execution when funds are available amounts to over Rs. 80 lakhs.

Crime.

78. There was a small decrease in the total volume of cognizable crime, and under most of the important heads, except robbery and dacoity including 12 unreported cases of the previous year and 82 *hat*-looting cases, the figure under dacoity rose from 437 in 1917 to 638, though burglaries decreased by 1,052 cases. The year was one of considerable economic stress, and this factor, together with the general unrest caused by the war, is largely responsible for the increase. While the restoration of peace, the conviction of some gangs and the various preventive measures which have been taken will, it is hoped, effect an improvement, the restoration of normal conditions cannot be expected until the economic situation improves.

Revolutionary crime.

79. There was a further decrease in revolutionary crime during the year, the number of dacoities being only 3 as compared with 9 in

1917 and 27 in 1916. For the first time since 1907, no member of the public lost his life at the hands of the revolutionary party. Three police officers were however killed while attempting to arrest anarchists. A number of prominent revolutionaries were arrested and some significant seizures of arms and other implements of revolutionary crime were made.

Criminal Investigation Department, Detective School.

80. The Criminal Investigation Department was largely occupied with measures for the repression of dacoity, and after protracted enquiry succeeded in bringing to justice many organised gangs in Bakarganj, Khulna, Midnapore, Hooghly, Howrah and other districts of the Presidency. Great credit is due to the officers of the Criminal Investigation Department for their successful prosecution of the Darjeeling gang case, which was instituted against a number of persons who, with the assistance of certain members of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway staff, had for some time been systematically stealing goods in transit. The department also secured the conviction of eight persons for instituting fraudulent civil suits. The training school which was opened at Howrah in 1917 for the purpose of training officers in modern methods of detection has continued to do useful work, and good reports are being received of the officers who have completed the course. Some changes are being made in the curriculum as a consequence of the experience gained, the main object being to make the course of study more practical.

Criminal Tribes.

81. Ten gangs were declared under the Criminal Tribes Act during the year. The total number of gangs of habitual criminals which have been brought under control by the application of the provisions of the Act is now 58, and the total number of persons registered under the Act is 4,116.

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

[Report on the above and measures taken for their destruction during 1918. Statistics of British India. Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Wild animals.

82. The number of persons killed by wild animals decreased from 341 in 1917 to 310 in 1918. There was a decrease in the number of deaths caused by tigers, elephants and hyenas, the number being 60, 10 and 1 against 81, 15 and 7, respectively, in 1917. The number of deaths caused by leopards shows an increase, the number being 68 against 58 in the preceding year : the increase is mainly in the Presidency Division.

Snakes.

83. The number of persons who died from snake-bite decreased from 4,393 in 1917 to 4,008 in 1918, the decrease being mainly in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, where the figures declined from 1,339 and 1,396 in 1917 to 968 and 1,195, respectively, in 1918. The Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions, however, show an increase of 99, 81 and 8 respectively.

Destruction of wild animals.

84. There was a small increase in the number of wild animals for the destruction of which rewards were paid, the number being 416 in 1918 against 412 in 1917. The number of tigers destroyed decreased from 123 in 1917 to 104 in 1918. The amounts paid for the destruction of wild animals and snakes were Rs. 10,490 and Rs. 190, respectively, the corresponding figures for 1917 being Rs. 15,464 and Rs. 206.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The Annual Report on the Police Administration of the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1918. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Administrative improvements.

85. Important changes in the superior staff of the Calcutta Police were made during the year. Three Superintendents' posts were converted into Provincial Assistant Commissionerships on a time scale of Rs. 400—25—500. The charge of the Training School will in future be held by an Assistant Commissioner of the Calcutta Police instead of by an officer of the Indian Police as hitherto, and it has been decided to reserve one post of Deputy Commissioner for Provincial Assistant Commissioners.

The only important addition to the force during the year was that of 22 posts of head-constables in connection with a scheme for the reorganization and increase of the traffic police, which has been rendered necessary by the development of the city of Calcutta.

Recruitment.

86. The general increase of two rupees a month in the pay of constables, sanctioned by the Secretary of State, has not appreciably improved recruitment. Despite fewer resignations, the total number of vacancies in the rank and file at the close of the year was 560, and recruitment was not sufficient to fill the annual casualties. These recruiting difficulties were largely due to the war, and it is hoped that, as demobilization progresses, it will be possible to secure a fair number of recruits during the present year; but it will be some time before the force can be brought up to a strength with properly trained men.

Accommodation.

87. The new police-headquarters at Lal Bazar were occupied in November, and since the close of the year land has been acquired for an extension to provide quarters for married European inspectors and sergeants. The old Police Hospital in Amherst Street, which was unsuited for modern requirements, has been sold, and a site for a new hospital has been acquired at Bhowanipur. Owing to the financial stringency, it was not possible to do much during the year towards solving the difficulty of housing the police in Calcutta. The yearly rent paid to private owners rose from Rs. 2,83,178 in 1917 to Rs. 2,99,474 in 1918. The existing arrangement under which 75 per cent. of the force is accommodated in rented buildings is uneconomical, and the Governor in Council awaits the proposals which the Commissioner of Police expects to submit to Government shortly.

Crime.

88. The total number of true cognizable cases, including petty cases under all Acts reported during the year, was 85,324, as compared with 106,540 in the previous year. The decrease was mainly in offences under special and local laws, and was due to the issue of orders requiring a stricter scrutiny of petty offences under the Police Acts, and restricting prosecutions in certain cases. There was a slight increase in serious crime, but excise cases showed a further marked fall. The number of cognizable cases disposed of by Honorary Magistrates was 56,726, an increase of 5,455 over the previous year. There was a slight decrease in the number of cases committed to the Sessions. As many as 1,396 old offenders were reconvicted. At the close of the year there were in the city 165 registered members of criminal tribes, of whom 18 were prosecuted for offences against the Criminal Tribes Act, 1911. All the cases ended in conviction. The Detective Department investigated 164 cases and assisted the local police in 97 other cases.

Juvenile offenders.

89. Of the 1,131 juvenile offenders convicted during the year, 1,032 were tried in the special court attached to the House of Detention. Twenty-five were sentenced to imprisonment in the Juvenile Jail and 46 were sent to reformatories. In the case of the remainder milder punishments were inflicted. Apart from juveniles, 161 persons were dealt with as first offenders under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, against 127 and 153 in the two previous years.

Political crime.

90. For the first time since 1912, Calcutta was free from open revolutionary crime. A number of prominent revolutionaries were however arrested in hiding places in the city during the year, and some significant seizures of arms and seditious literature were made.

Motor Vehicles.

91. The number of motor vehicles running in the city continues to increase and is now estimated at over 5,000, including 863 motor-cycles. There was a regrettable increase in the number of street accidents, 66 of which proved fatal, as compared with 54 in the previous year. The increase is attributed by the Commissioner in part to the reduction of street lighting. Several gentlemen gave valuable assistance as Special Constables in the control of motor traffic, and the institution of a special Bench of Honorary Magistrates for the trial of motor cases has helped to expedite the proceedings and to save time and trouble to the public.

Hackney carriages.

92. Since the close of the year the control of hackney carriages has been transferred from the Calcutta Corporation to the Calcutta Police under the provision of the Calcutta Hackney Carriage Act, 1919, and the Government of India have recently sanctioned, pending the final orders of the Secretary

of State, the creation of a new department, to be called the Public Vehicles Department, comprising two branches, one for motor vehicles and the other for hackney carriages, each with its own establishment in charge of an Assistant Commissioner of Police, the entire department being administered by a Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Cinematograph. 93. The Cinematograph Act, passed by the Imperial Legislative Council during the year, has not yet been brought into force, but the voluntary censorship boards established in Calcutta have continued to do valuable work, and their control and advice are readily accepted by bioscope proprietors. There are, however, obvious objections to a voluntary system applicable only to a single city and with no legal basis for its operations, and it is hoped that the issue of regulations under the new Act will not be long delayed.

Fire Brigade. 94. The working of the Calcutta Fire Brigade continues to be satisfactory, but the loss of property due to damage by fire and water was large, owing to several big jute fires during the early part of the year, in which delay occurred in giving the alarm to the Fire Brigade. The Brigade was called out on 526 occasions, as compared with 377 in the previous year.

Riot. 95. The peace of the city was unfortunately broken by an outbreak of rioting which occurred on the 9th and 10th September and resulted in a lamentable loss of life. The causes which led to the disturbances were fully reviewed at the time, and it is unnecessary to reopen the matter. The police force of Calcutta were subjected to a severe strain, many of the officers and men being on duty for forty-eight hours at a stretch, and it is a matter for the highest satisfaction that no authenticated case of misconduct of any kind on the part of the police was brought to notice, while commendations of their behaviour during the riots were received from many varied sources.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1918. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Judicial staff. 96. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 10 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Six Subordinate Judges were vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judge. They were employed in Bankura, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Pabna, Hooghly and Dinajpur; they decided altogether 49 cases. Besides the above, five temporary Additional Sessions Judges were employed, one each at Howrah throughout the year, at Burdwan from the 6th November, at Pabna and Bogra for six months from the 30th June, at Dacca, as 2nd Additional Judge, for six months from the 13th July, and at Midnapore, as 2nd Additional Judge, from the 2nd May till the 3rd October and again for six months from the 6th November.

The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 370 stipendiary and 841 honorary magistrates. These figures represent a decrease of 22 and 1, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. One special magistrate was employed in Noakhali and one in Calcutta, where they decided 120 and 86 cases respectively. Of the 370 stipendiary magistrates, 270 exercised first, 76 second, and 24 third class powers.

There were 134 benches of magistrates constituted from among 756 honorary magistrates in the mufassal. Of the total, 107 were independent and 27 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Offences reported. 97. There were 323,561 criminal offences reported during the year, a decrease of 30,459 on the figures of 1917.

Of the total, 173,291 were under the Indian Penal Code, and 150,270 under special and local laws. These totals are less by 7,686 and 22,773, respectively, than those of 1917. The decrease was most marked in Dacca, Tippera, Nadia, Mymensingh, Chittagong and Midnapore as regards offences under the Penal Code, and in the Presidency town, the 24-Parganas and Bakarganj as regards offences under special and local laws.

False cases.

98. The number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed, was 53,922 or 16·6 per cent. of the number reported during the year. These figures include cases pending enquiry at the close of 1917. The percentage for the preceding year was the same. Complaints were dismissed in 49,193 cases, or 3,907 less than in 1917. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was 4,729 or 1,036 less than in 1917.

True cases.

99. Of the total number of cases under inquiry 269,124 were found to be true, and of these 214,744 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending in 16,021 cases at the close of the year. Compared with 1917, the number of cases found to be true and the number brought to trial show a decrease of 25,592 and 30,930, respectively.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Presidency Magistrates' Courts.

Total cases for trial.

100. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 84,179 were in the courts of the police and municipal magistrates in the Presidency town, and 130,565 in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal.

A.—Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta. Cases for trial.

101. The number of cases brought before the Presidency Magistrates, including the municipal magistrates, was smaller by 16,175 than in 1917. The number of cases under special and local laws was 77,256 or 15,399 less than in 1917, while cases under the Penal Code fell from 7,699 to 6,923. The decrease under the former head was most marked in offences under the Police Act which fell from 58,632 to 47,309. The number of offences under the Bengal Motor Car and Cycle Act, fell from 3,123 to 1,368, under the Hackney and Stage Carriages Acts, from 2,081 to 1,521 and under the Ports Acts, from 2,458 to 2,046. Offences under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals also fell from 7,089 to 6,889. There was a noticeable increase. on the other hand, in the number of offences under the Ferry Service Act, which rose from 260 to 928. As regards offences under the Penal Code, there was a decrease in offences affecting the public health, safety, etc., which fell from 3,744 to 3,244.

Before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the municipal magistrates, 68,698 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 13,540 were before stipendiary magistrates, 86 before a special magistrate, 47,049 before honorary magistrates sitting singly, and 2,023 before benches. In 1917, 83,143 cases were decided, of which 33,709 were before stipendiary magistrates, 47,162 before honorary magistrates sitting singly, and 2,272 before benches. Three hundred and sixty-five cases were pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of, 42 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by magistrates, 482 under the ordinary, and the remainder under the summary, procedure.

The number of witnesses examined before the police magistrates was 19,350, as compared with 19,839 in 1917. The number of those who attended and were discharged without examination was 242 or 1·2 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. Of the total number in attendance, 16,096. (82·2 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 3,182 (16·3 per cent.) on the second, 278 (1·4 per cent.) on the third, and 36 (·1 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 18 less than in 1917.

The number of cases brought before the municipal magistrates was 15,428, all of which were cases under the Calcutta Municipal Act. The number of cases disposed of was 15,422, of which 15,252 were decided under the summary procedure. Of the remaining six cases, four were pending at the close of the year and in the other two cases, the accused died. Compared with 1917, the number of cases instituted and disposed of shows a decrease of 1,710 and 1,711, respectively.

The number of witnesses examined before the municipal magistrates rose from 4,803 to 4,904. Of the witnesses in attendance, five were detained for more than three days.

Results of trials.

102. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the municipal magistrates, was 75,170. Of the

persons tried, 7,736 were acquitted or discharged, 66,904 were convicted, one died, 49 were committed to the sessions, and 480 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 1,767 were compounded, withdrawn, or dismissed for default. Of the persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 5,300 were convicted and 3,711 acquitted or discharged. The results of trials before each class of magistrates during the year are shown below:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Stipendiary magistrates	2,650	19,138	87·8
Benches of „	289	1,851	86·4
Honorary magistrates sitting singly ...	4,745	45,742	90·6
Special magistrate	52	173	76·8

Of the persons convicted, 1,633 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, including the cases of two persons who were sentenced to solitary confinement; 442 were punished with simple imprisonment, 63,056 with fine and 153 with whipping. Eighty-nine of the persons sentenced to fine were so sentenced in addition to other punishments.

Forty-four sentences of imprisonment were, in the case of youthful offenders, commuted to detention in a reformatory school. One thousand one hundred and ninety-six convicted persons were warned and discharged.

In addition to these sentences, 182 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 177 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year; four persons convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to execute bonds to keep the peace; 189 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code; and various miscellaneous orders were passed under special laws in the cases of 147 persons. The number of persons released on probation of good conduct shows an increase of 81 as compared with 1917.

Before the municipal magistrates, 18,320 persons were under trial, of whom 17,389 were convicted, 920 were acquitted or discharged, three died and eight remained under trial at the close of the year. The percentage of convictions was 94·9. Of the persons convicted, 11,937 were punished with fines, and the remainder were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and bye-laws of the Calcutta Corporation.

B.—Magistrates outside Calcutta. Cases for trial.

103. At the opening of the year, 5,899 cases, besides cases of lunatics, were pending before magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year, 130,589 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, 130,494 were disposed of and 5,943 remained pending at its close. In the remaining fifty-one cases, the accused died, escaped or were transferred. The cases brought to trial were less than in 1917 by 14,773, the decrease being chiefly in cases under special and local laws (8,922). Under the Indian Penal Code, the decrease was most prominent in offences affecting the human body (2,570), against property (1,968) and in offences by or relating to public servants (521).

A decrease in the number of cases instituted is reported from twenty-two, and an increase from four districts. The decrease was most marked in the 24-Parganas (6,981), Dacca (1,723), Nadia (835), Tippera (766), Faridpur (744), Burdwan (735) and Mymensingh (714), while the largest increase occurred in Howrah (735) and next came Birbhum (454).

The decrease in the 24-Parganas was most prominent in cases under special and local laws, *viz.*, the Police (Town) Acts and in offences under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The disposals were distributed as follows:—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates	160	20
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates ...	68,557	30,824
Honorary magistrates	18,252	884
Benches of magistrates	4,419	7,233
Special magistrate	120	...

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 25 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The number of cases decided during the year was less than in 1917 by 14,453. The decrease occurred in all the courts of magistates. The number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates, subordinate stipendiary magistrates, honorary magistrates, benches of magistrates and a special magistrate shows a decrease of 187, 10,109, 3,316, 778 and 63, respectively, as compared with 1917.

The total number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 205, the largest number having been decided by the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri (98).

Results of trials.

104. Of the total number of cases shown in the preceding paragraph, 1,381 were committed or referred to the sessions and 129,113 were finally disposed of by magistrates. In these latter, 182,944 persons were accused, or 18,394 less than in 1917. Of the total, 97,685, or 53·4 per cent. were convicted and 85,259, or 46·6 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. In 1917, 53·6 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted.

Of the persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 46,279 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried was 71·4 against 71·3 in 1917.

Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 31,265 or 31·3 per cent. were convicted, and 68,605, or 68·7 per cent., acquitted or discharged. Of the latter, the cases of 40,347 persons were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried under the Penal Code was 52·5 against 52·1 in 1917.

The total number of persons awaiting trial before magistrates at the close of 1918 was 10,839 as compared with 11,162 in 1917. Of these, fourteen who were on bail, were awaiting trial for more than six months. Explanations of the delay in the disposal of all cases pending for more than three months, submitted by the magistrates concerned, have been considered by the High Court and the necessary orders have been passed on them. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 1,064, against 1,042 in 1917.

The general result of trials before magistrates of each class was as follows :—

Class of Magistrates.	Number of persons		Percentage of convictions.
	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	
Benches of magistrates	3,335	9,994	74·9
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates ...	72,172	72,662	50·1
Honorary magistrates	9,365	14,913	61·4
Special magistrate	149	45	23·1
District magistrates	238	71	22·9

Of the persons shown above as convicted, the numbers tried summarily were 8,486 by benches of magistrates; 31,176 by subordinate stipendiary magistrates; 935 by honorary magistrates; and 20 by District Magistrates.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows :—

Nature of trial.	Appealable sentence.	Non-appealable sentence.
On regular trial	38,040	18,797
On summary trial	3,295	37,020

Punishments.

105. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows :—

Imprisonment ...	Rigorous	16,579
	Simple	1,195
Fine ...	With imprisonment	2,525
	Without imprisonment	71,930
Whipping ...	Sole punishment	382
	Additional punishment	1

A term of solitary confinement was included in 46 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the cases of 17 youthful offenders the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to one of detention in a reformatory school. Three thousand seven hundred and twenty-two persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 3,473 of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders. Four hundred and ninety-three persons, against 485 in 1917, were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against 17 persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken and all were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 4,514 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, of whom 1,256 were convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace.

Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 4,310 were for terms not exceeding 15 days; 11,072 for terms not exceeding six months; 5,793 for terms not exceeding two years; and 55 for terms exceeding two years.

Sentences of whipping were passed on 383 persons as against 367 in the preceding year. Of these, five against three in 1917, were not in accordance with the Whipping Act of 1909. In four cases, the sentences were executed, and in one case the sentence was set aside by the High Court on a reference made to it.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 7,38,241. Rupees 6,25,132 were realised, of which Rs. 99,066 were paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscellaneous Proceedings.

106. In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt with by magistrates in the mufassal :—

Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter VIII.

107. There were 2,624 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 11,376 persons were involved. The number of cases and persons involved were more than the number brought before the courts in 1917. Of the persons concerned, 3,259 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Bakarganj (1,667), followed by Bogra (1,317), Faridpur (1,240), Mymensingh (1,227), Khulna (1,048), Pabna (895) and Dacca (720). Bakarganj has headed the list since 1913. In Bogra, Khulna and Midnapore there was a large increase in the number of proceedings of this class, while there was a marked decrease in Faridpur and Tippera as compared with 1917.

In 2,031 cases, 5,026 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 4,005. Of these, 3,761 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 288 after reference to the courts of sessions under section 123 of the Code, and 3,473 under orders of magistrates, for terms not exceeding one year.

Chapters X, XII, and XXXVI.

108. Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 677 cases, and in the cases of 355 persons a reference was made to a jury under section 138 of the Code.

The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code, involving questions of the possession of land decided by magistrates, was 1,152, showing a decrease of 198 on the figures for 1917.

Four hundred and sixty-five complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons under section 250 of the Code, the accusations having been found to be frivolous or vexatious.

Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 843 persons, and orders were made absolute against 220.

Witnesses.

109. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal was 357,382 as compared with 391,565 in 1917. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 173,629, or 32·6 per cent. of the whole number in attendance; the percentage in the preceding year was 32·7. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 1,94,131 in 1917 to Rs. 2,13,805 in 1918.

Of the total number in attendance, 390,974 (73·6 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 101,047 (19 per cent.) on the second day; 30,639

(5·8 per cent.) on the third day; and 8,351 (1·6 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 2,326 less than in 1917.

The districts in which the largest percentage of witnesses was detained for more than three days were Bakarganj (4·3), Bogra (3·1) and Bankura (2·8). Explanations of these detentions have been dealt with by the High Court.

II.—Courts of Session.

Commitments, etc.

110. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1,381, or 15 more than in 1917; and the number decided, including the cases pending from the previous year, was 1,359, or six more than in 1917. There were 174 cases pending at the close of the year. Commitments increased in 12 districts and decreased in 13, and remained the same as in the preceding year in one district.

The increase was marked in the following districts: in Jalpaiguri from 29 to 51, in Rangpur from 23 to 41, in Pabna from 39 to 55 and in Hooghly from 46 to 59. The decrease was noticeable in Tippera from 90 to 68, in Bakarganj from 156 to 142 and in Dacca from 96 to 85. The number of commitments was, as in the previous year, largest in Bakarganj (142).

Results of trials.

111. There were 3,741 persons, or 181 more than in 1917, under trial before the courts of session. The cases of 3,267 persons were decided and 460 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 3,267 persons tried, 1,941 or 59·4 per cent. were convicted, 1,234 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 92 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

112. The following sentences were passed by the courts of session:—

Death ...	... ...	24
Transportation	for life	87
	for a term of years	67
Imprisonment	rigorous	1,475
	simple	8
Fine ...	... ...	60
Whipping ...	... ...	5

Of those sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences in the cases of seven persons included terms of solitary confinement. Forty-six of the sentences of fine and five of whipping were additional punishments. Besides the above, 288 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (51 for terms not exceeding one year and 237 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour. One person, who had been convicted of an offence involving a breach of the peace, was required to execute a bond with sureties to keep the peace in addition to his substantive punishment. Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms:—

Not exceeding	15 days	21
	6 months	194
	2 years	514
	7 years	994
Exceeding ...	7 years	47

Fines to the amount of Rs. 11,677 were imposed by courts of session, as compared with Rs. 8,271 imposed in the preceding year. The total realisations of the year aggregated Rs. 2,270, as compared with Rs. 4,350 in 1917. The amount of the fines realised and paid as compensation fell from Rs. 481 to Rs. 175.

Jury trials.

113. The number of persons tried by jury was 1,584 and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 1,440 persons and disapproved of it in respect of 144.

The Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict of the jury in regard to 68 persons and referred the cases to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given under the head "Superintendence, Reference and Revision."

Trials with the aid of Assessors.

114. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 1,419. In the cases of 982 persons, the Sessions Judge concurred in the opinion of both the assessors; in the cases of 189 he differed from the opinion of one, and in the cases of 248 he differed from the opinion of both the assessors. The corresponding figures of 1917 were 1,179, 789, 204 and 186, respectively.

Duration of cases.

115. The average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, fell from 45·3 days in 1917 to 44·8 days in 1918. Notice was, as usual, taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration.

The duration of cases was highest in the district of the 24-Parganas (71), followed by Hooghly (68·6), Bakarganj (64·5), Noakhali (51·7) and Dacca (50·4). There was a marked increase from 27·6 to 51·7 days in Noakhali, from 46·3 to 68·6 days in Hooghly, from 30·2 to 43·8 days in Bogra, from 26·7 to 40 days in Darjeeling, from 37·5 to 48·4 in Pabna and from 53·8 to 64·5 in Bakarganj. On the other hand, there was a noticeable reduction from 84 to 33·4 days in Birbhum, from 46·1 to 5 days in Malda and from 40·8 to 3·5 days in Rajshahi.

Witnesses.

116. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 28,051. Of these, 16,888 were examined and 11,163 discharged without examination. In 1917, the corresponding figures were 15,662 and 10,406, respectively.

Of the total number in attendance, 11,159 (39·8 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 8,518 (30·4 per cent.) on the second day; 4,684 (16·7 per cent.) on the third day; and 3,690 (13·1 per cent.) after the third day. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day was larger than in 1917 (3·3 per cent.). The High Court have taken due notice of cases of excessive detention of witnesses in reviewing the district reports. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 82,178 as compared with Rs. 66,396 in 1917.

Commitments, etc., to the High Court.

117. One case was pending at the commencement of the year, and 42 cases were brought to trial during the year. Of these, 36 were tried during the year and 7 remained undecided at its close.

Altogether 43 persons were tried, of whom 25 were convicted and 18 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 421 and the average duration of cases from commitment was 48·8 days, against 36 days in 1917.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals.

118. At the opening of the year, 40 appeals from sentences or orders of Criminal Courts were pending before the High Court. During the year, 656 appeals were preferred and 652 were decided, leaving 44 pending at its close. The number preferred and decided was four and six less than in the preceding year. The pending file shows an increase of four appeals.

Of the appeals preferred against sentences, 564 were from courts of session and 87 from courts of Presidency Magistrates. Five appeals were preferred by the local Government against orders of acquittal.

Results of Appeals.

119. Five hundred and sixty-six appeals against sentences of courts of session were decided. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 448, reversed in 30, and modified in 87 instances. One case was remanded for re-trial.

Eighty-one appeals from the orders of magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being affirmed in 70, modified in one and reversed in eight cases. Two cases were remanded for re-trial.

The results of appeals decided, as affecting individuals, were that the appeals of 730 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that in admitted appeals, the sentences on 196 appellants were confirmed, on 268 reduced or altered, and on 56 annulled. In the cases of eight persons, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

Appeals against acquittal.

120. Five appeals by the local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year. In one case, five persons were convicted by a deputy magistrate under sections 353 and 147, Indian Penal Code, and were acquitted by the Sessions Judge. The High Court set aside the order of

acquittal and remanded the case to the Sessions Court for a hearing of the appeal on its merits. In the second case, the accused was charged with an offence under section 302, Indian Penal Code, and was acquitted by the Sessions Judge who agreed with the unanimous verdict of the jury. The High Court rejected the appeal. In the third case in which the accused was acquitted by a deputy magistrate of an offence under section 411, Indian Penal Code, the High Court set aside the order of acquittal and convicted and sentenced the accused to undergo rigorous imprisonment for two years. In the fourth case in which also the accused was charged with an offence under section 411, Indian Penal Code, and was acquitted by a Presidency Magistrate, the High Court upheld the lower court's decision. In the fifth case, the accused was charged with an offence under section 420, Indian Penal Code, and was acquitted by an honorary presidency magistrate. The High Court dismissed the appeal.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

121. There were 243 appeals pending before the courts of session at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,350 appeals were preferred, 3,417 were decided and 177 remained pending at its close. The number of appeals preferred was 342 less than in 1917. In the appeals decided, 5,938 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,152 persons, or 19·4 per cent., were summarily dismissed; 2,351 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 1,123 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; 1,194 were acquitted; and in the cases of 116 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. The cases of two persons were referred to the High Court.

The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining a modification of the original orders, and successful in obtaining their reversal, was 58·9, 18·9, and 20·1, respectively. Of those concerned in admitted appeals only, the proportions were 49·1, 23·4 and 24·9 per cent. In the case of admitted appeals, the results were more favourable to appellants than in the previous year.

Magistrates' Courts.

122. In the courts of magistrates, 194 appeals were pending at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,433 appeals were preferred, 3,520 were decided and 107 remained pending at its close. The number preferred was less than in 1917 by 629.

The number of persons whose appeals were decided by courts of magistrates was 6,097. Of these, the appeals of 1,340 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 2,568, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 3,908 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 64 per cent. Of the remainder, 724 appellants, or 11·8 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 1,394, or 22·8 per cent., their total annulment. In the cases of 71 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. Compared with 1917, the results were less favourable to appellants.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure.

123. Ten references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from the verdicts of juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year and 39 were made during the year. Forty-two of these references were decided during the year and seven remained undecided at its close. Of the 42 cases disposed of, the verdict of the jury was accepted in 12 cases, set aside in 26 and modified in one. Two cases were remanded for retrial, and in one case the accused was made over to the Lunatic Asylum.

References under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

124. Sixteen references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were made to the High Court during 1918, and one was pending at the opening of the year. Sixteen were decided during the year, in which 24 persons were concerned. The death sentence was confirmed in the cases of eleven persons, and commuted to transportation for life in the cases of seven. The remaining six persons were acquitted.

References under section 341, Code of Criminal Procedure.

125. The cases of two persons who, though not insane, could not be made to understand the proceedings, were referred for the orders of the High Court. Both were disposed of during the year. The conviction of the accused was approved and sentence was passed by the High Court in one case and the conviction and order by the lower court were confirmed in the other.

Revision.

126. During the year, 151 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and three were pending at the opening of the year. Of these, 141 were decided and 13 remained pending. The number reported was 12 less than in 1917. In 55 cases the orders sent up for revision were set aside, or the proceedings quashed, and in 24 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 15 cases and enhanced in three. In the remaining 44 cases the High Court declined to interfere.

Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, orders were passed in 1,039 cases, a decrease of 298 on the figures of the previous year. Of these, 1,035 came before the High Court on application and four were taken up by the Court on review of sessions statements or otherwise of its own motion.

Of the applications for the issue of rules, 674 were rejected. Of 361 rules issued, 127 were finally discharged ; 100 were made absolute in their entirety ; the orders complained of were modified in 67 cases and quashed in eight ; in 59 cases a new trial was ordered.

In all the four cases taken up by the High Court *suo motu*, the orders passed by the lower court were confirmed.

Applications for transfer.

127. Fifty-six applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases (53 original cases and 3 appeals) from one court or district to another were received and disposed of during the year. Thirty-two were summarily rejected, and in one case transfer was granted without the issue of a rule. In 23 cases rules were issued with the result that transfers were granted in 13 and refused in 10 cases.

II.—Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions courts.

128. Including the cases of accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the courts of magistrates, and of those against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 7,738 persons were decided on revision by courts of session during the year. The number was 151 less than in 1917. The applications of 2,344 persons were rejected, while the orders of the lower courts were confirmed in the cases of 2,317 persons. The orders passed were reversed in cases of 101 persons, the proceedings quashed in those of 10 persons and the order modified in that of one person. The cases of 237 persons were referred to the High Court, and in the cases of 2,728 persons new trials or further inquiries were ordered.

Magistrates' Courts.

129. The cases of 2,814 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The number was 395 less than in 1917. Of the total, the applications of 1,194 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 839 the original sentence or order was upheld. The sentences or orders were modified in the cases of 15 persons, reversed in those of 218 persons, and new trials or further inquiries were directed in the cases of 502 persons. The cases of 46 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trials of European British subjects.

130. The cases of 24 European British subjects were decided during the year, as against 38 in the previous year. All of these were dealt with by magistrates. Of the accused persons, one claimed to be tried by a mixed jury.

In the cases disposed of, ten persons were convicted and fourteen were acquitted. In five cases the convictions were for offences under special and local laws ; in two cases for offences against property ; in two cases for offences affecting the human body and in another for an offence under the

Indian Defence Force Act and the Registration Ordinance and Rules, 1917. The number of European British subjects tried was largest in Burdwan (8).

Results of revisional work.

131. Compared with the figures of 1917, there was a general decline in original cases and appeals instituted during the year. The number of original cases disposed of by magistrates both in the mufassal and in the Presidency town as well as the amount of appellate and revisional work disposed of by District Magistrates were considerably less than in 1917. In the courts of session there was a slight increase in the outturn of original work but a marked decrease in that of appellate and revisional work. In the High Court there was a slight decrease in the outturn of original and appellate work but a greater decrease in revisional work.

Nineteen persons (10 in Faridpur, 3 each in Dacca and Tippera, 4 in Pabna and 1 in Jalpaiguri) were under trial for offences against the State. Of these, twelve were acquitted, six convicted and one remained under trial at the close of the year.

During the year under review, illegal sentences of whipping were passed in five cases, as against four in 1917.

Receipts and charges.

132. After debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice, a portion of the salaries of judicial officers calculated according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it; the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 26,03,022. Of this amount, Rs. 14,45,212 were for the salaries of judicial officers; Rs. 1,32,482 for fixed and temporary copying establishments; Rs. 84,400 for process-servers; Rs. 4,36,658 for other establishments; and Rs. 5,04,270 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 16,89,642. Of this amount, Rs. 9,13,562 were under fines; Rs. 1,52,141 under process-fees; Rs. 1,60,012 under copying and comparing fees; Rs. 3,71,040 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above; and Rs. 92,887 were miscellaneous receipts. Compared with the figures of 1917, the receipts show a decrease of over Rs. 97,000 and the charges an increase of over Rs. 29,000.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

133. The number of cases brought to trial during 1918 in the Scheduled District of the Chittagong Hill Tracts was 120. The total number of cases disposed of was 115. The number of witnesses examined was 714. The total number of persons under trial, including those awaiting trial from the previous year, was 228; of these 160 were acquitted or discharged and 60 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial, 99 were for theft, 23 for criminal trespass, and 23 for offences under special and local laws. The total number of appellants and applicants for revision was 40, of whom 14 were wholly or partly successful.

Jails.

[The Report on the Administration of the Jail Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1918. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Jail population.

134. The total number of prisoners admitted to the Bengal jails during the year was 83,207 or 1,509 less than in 1917, but the average daily population in 1918 was 16,761 or 832 more than in the previous year. There was therefore overcrowding at times in nearly all jails, and there are no signs, so far, that the increase in criminality, which occurred after the outbreak of the war, is subsiding. It is, however, satisfactory to find that, in spite of overcrowding, the number of jail offences of all kinds was substantially less than in the previous year, the ratio of total punishments to daily population being 142 against 166 in 1917. The penalty of whipping was inflicted in 42 cases as compared with 51 in the previous year.

Health and mortality of prisoners.

135. General health conditions were unfavourable, especially during the last six months of the year, when influenza was prevalent throughout the country. The daily average number of prisoners in hospital was 963 as compared with 825 in the previous year, and the death rate rose from 15·8 per mille in 1917 to 21·3 per mille. The latter figure is, however, only slightly

above the quinquennial average, and is one per mille less than in 1916. It is a curious fact that the jails suffered much more from the earlier outbreak of influenza in July and August than from the outbreak at the end of the year which proved so fatal among the general population. During November and December, when Calcutta was suffering severely, the Presidency and Alipore Jails were practically free from the disease. Altogether 3,426 cases of influenza occurred in the Bengal jails, and of these 53 proved fatal. There was a marked improvement in the health of the prisoners in the Barisal and Barasat Jails, which have caused anxiety in previous years, but high death rates are reported from Rangpur, Khulna, Jalpaiguri and Bogra. Serious outbreaks of dysentery occurred in the Rangpur and Jessore Jails, where the inexperience of the staff added to the difficulty of combating the disease. There was an outbreak of cholera in the Khulna Jail. The death rates in all the Central Jails except Midnapore were below the provincial average, and Midnapore has shown improved results as compared with the previous year.

The popularity of the wheat scale dietary continues to increase. Three-fifths of the total number of prisoners have voluntarily adopted this scale, and the statistics furnished by the Inspector-General again show its satisfactory effects on their general health. The average cost of this diet is the same as that of the ordinary rice diet.

The special ward for tuberculosis cases at Suri has proved useful. The construction of a ward in the Comilla Jail for the reception of similar cases from the jails in Eastern Bengal has recently been completed.

Juvenile Jail.

136. The Juvenile Jail at Alipore continues to do excellent work. Further improvements have been made in the school, where reading, writing, arithmetic and freehand drawing are now taught by a competent staff, while the physical training has produced an excellent effect on the health and spirits of the boys. Moral and religious instruction is given daily ; discipline is good and the number of petty offences and punishments is decreasing. After considerable difficulties, an After-Care Association has been formed in Calcutta, which has found work for several of the boys on their release.

The manufacture of quinine tablets and treatments continues to be the most important industry in the jail. The value of the quinine sold by the jail during the year amounted to over Rs. 3½ lakhs, and the profit exceeded a lakh.

Jail Industries.

137. The outturn of jail manufactures was again satisfactory, though there was a fall in the net cash earnings, due to the larger stock of new materials and manufactured goods remaining in hand at the close of the year, as compared with the previous year, and also to larger outstandings due to the jails. The Presidency Jail increased its outturn of gunny cloth and was able to make a substantial profit, owing to the low price of raw jute at the beginning of the year. The Midnapore Central Jail had to meet exceptionally large demands for cotton uniforms and durries from the Police Department, while the blanket factory at the Dacca Central Jail was engaged all the year in manufacturing blankets for the army. The Rajshahi Jail increased its output of castor oil, which yielded a considerable profit.

The jails in Bengal continued to help in war work. As in previous years, prisoners volunteered during 1918 for service as sweepers, dhobis and artisans in Mesopotamia, and 27 were conditionally released and made over to the military authorities. The jails supplied to the army large quantities of bandages, dusters and doosuty cloths, besides a number of other articles.

Warder service.

138. The conduct of the warder staff was on the whole satisfactory, and there was a considerable decrease in the number of departmental punishments. Resignations, however, show a tendency to increase, and the rise in prices and the competition of private firms are adding to the difficulties of recruiting suitable men.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1918. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Judicial Staff.

139. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1918 consisted of 14 High Court Judges ; 21 District Judges ; 10 additional

District Judges; a Chief Judge and five Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court; three Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge; 43 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In addition, four executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and two the powers of a Munsif.

The following changes in the *personnel* of the High Court took place during the year :—

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. C. Rankin was appointed to be an additional Judge of the High Court, with effect from the 14th November. Mr. M. Smither continued to officiate as a Judge of the High Court till the 14th July and Mr. A. H. Cuming and Mr. E. B. H. Panton officiated as Judges, the former from the 16th July to the 1st September and the latter from the 14th November till the end of the year, *vice* the Hon'ble Sir Ashutosh Mukharji, Kt., on deputation with the University Commission throughout the year. Mr. M. Smither again officiated as a Judge, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chitty on furlough, from the 15th July to the 1st September. Mr. E. B. H. Panton also officiated as a Judge from the 17th June to 31st August 1918 in place of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Beachcroft whose services were placed at the disposal of the Government of Bengal.

In addition to the permanent staff, the following temporary appointments in the subordinate courts were sanctioned during the year :—

One additional District Judge at Hooghly throughout the year; one at Noakhali from the 3rd January till the 31st May; one at Dinajpur for six weeks from the 2nd March; one at Midnapore and one at Pabna-Bogra from the 2nd May and the 30th June, respectively, till the end of the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation; one in the 24-Parganas from the 16th April to the 16th June; one at Dacca and one at Burdwan from the 13th July and the 6th November, respectively, till the end of the year.

A temporary additional Judge in the Presidency Small Cause Court was employed from the 14th November till the end of the year.

Temporary additional Subordinate Judges were employed one each at Bakarganj and Rajshahi throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation; one each at Chittagong and Murshidabad till the 3rd October; one at Mymensingh till the 18th November; one at Hooghly and one at Howrah from the 19th and 21st August, respectively, till the end of the year; one at Pabna-Bogra from the 24th August till the end of the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation; one at Rangpur from the 30th August till the 3rd October; and one in the 24-Parganas from the 22nd July till the 3rd October.

Temporary additional Munsifs were employed one each at Chittagong, Dacca (Dacca-Narainganj), Dinajpur (Balurghat), Khulna and Pabna-Bogra (Serajganj) and two at Mymensingh (Iswarganj and Jamalpur) throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation and one at Rajshahi from the 22nd July till the 3rd October. Two additional Munsifs were also employed, one at Sadar and the other at Iswarganj, in the district of Mymensingh from the 22nd and 20th July till the end of the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits.

140. The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of 1917 was 1,987, including 50 suits received by transfer from other courts; and the number instituted during 1918 was 1,821, including 22 suits received by transfer from other courts and one remanded for re-trial during the year, making a total of 3,808 for disposal in 1918. Of the suits instituted during 1918, 1,221 were for money or moveable property, 114 were mortgage suits, and 78 were for immoveable property.

The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 1,61,07,626-12-9, as compared with Rs. 93,37,811-8-10 in the previous year.

The number of suits decided in 1918 was 1,185, and the number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 2,623. The number pending at the

close of the year exceeded the number pending at the close of the previous year by 636. There were 1,194 suits pending over one year, showing an increase of 152 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided—

283 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution
28 were withdrawn with leave,
90 were determined by compromise,
65 were decreed on confession,
302 were decreed *ex parte*,
7 were disposed of by reference to arbitration,
300 were decreed after contest, and
110 were dismissed after contest.

Prize cases.

141. As in the two previous years, the cases against seven ships (in respect of six of which orders had previously been made for delivery to the Lords of the Admiralty upon their requisition) and one claim against the cargo of another were still pending at the close of the year.

Cases under the extraordinary jurisdiction.

142. At the commencement of the year eight suits were pending in the High Court in its extraordinary original civil jurisdiction, and two suits were transferred to it during the year. Of these, four were disposed of during the year, and six remained pending at its close.

Probates and letters of administration, etc.

143. During the year, 470 petitions for probate and letters of administration, and 8,907 interlocutory applications (including applications for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the appointment of receivers, for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for execution, for summonses to witnesses, for special leave to file written statements after time) were disposed of Of the interlocutory applications 5,511 were disposed of by the Court, or by a Judge in chambers, and the remainder (3,396) by the Registrar and the Master.

References to take accounts, etc.

144. The number of references to take accounts, to make inquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance, on questions of title, on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement, to settle conveyances, and in like matters, pending at the commencement of the year, was 122. Fresh references were directed by the Court in 304 cases. Of the total, 302 were disposed of by the Registrar, the Official Referee and Master and their assistants.

Conveyances and sureties.

145. During the year, the Registrar settled nine conveyances and inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in ninety-one cases. The Registrar further inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 172 matters in which administration bonds were executed.

Appeals from the original jurisdiction.

146. The number of appeals pending from the previous year was 55, and 91 new appeals were preferred to the Appellate Side of the Court. Of these, 12 were dismissed for default or otherwise not prosecuted, and 66 were decided. Of the latter, the decrees of the courts of first instance were affirmed in 40 cases, modified in five and reversed in 20; one case was remanded for re-trial. Sixty-eight appeals remained undecided at the close of the year.

References from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

147. No reference was pending from the previous year, and none was made during the year.

Applications for the transfer of cases from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

148. Twenty-four cases under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act, 1882, were pending at the commencement of the year, and during the year seventeen applications were made to the High Court. All the applications were granted. Of the 41 cases for disposal, two were dismissed for default, two were withdrawn with leave, one was decreed after contest and two were dismissed after contest. The remaining 34 cases were pending at the close of the year.

Three cases were transferred from the Calcutta Small Cause Court under section 24 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and 18 were pending from the previous year. Of the 21 cases for disposal, two were dismissed for default

four were compromised and one was dismissed after contest. The remaining 14 cases were pending at the close of the year.

Three applications under section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure, for the calling up of records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes, were pending at the commencement of the year and sixteen such applications were made to the High Court during the year. Of these, two applications were refused, in ten cases the rules issued were discharged and in four cases, the rules issued were made absolute. Three cases were pending at the close of the year.

Insolvency cases.

149. The number of cases under the old and new Acts pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 165 and 595, respectively, and the number instituted during the year was 161. Of the 921 cases for disposal, 71 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed in 19 cases, and the insolvents obtaining relief in 52. Two thousand and forty-two applications of a miscellaneous character were also disposed of during the year.

Duration of sittings.

150. For the hearing of original suits and applications, one Judge sat alone for 49 days, two Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 118 days, and three Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 39 days. The Insolvency Court engaged the time of one Judge for ten days. Appeals from the Original Side and references from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes occupied a bench of two Judges for 98 days, and a bench of three Judges for 12 days.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

151. Six appeals from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, and one was admitted during the year. None of these was disposed of during the year.

Receipts and expenditure.

152. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the Original Side during 1918 were Rs. 13,22,591-15-9 and Rs. 5,32,976-11-10, respectively.

Taxing Office.

153. The number of bills between party and party taxed during the year was 962 and of bills between attorney and client was 275.

The court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 18,384. This sum is also included in the item "Other fees realised by means of stamps."

Financial results.

154. The following figures exhibit the financial results for the last three years, including, under the head of expenditure, the salaries of the Judges :—

Year.	Receipts.(a)	Receipts. (b)	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1916	17,41,923	4,44,458	4,93,408
1917	9,52,865	3,85,062	5,39,085
1918	13,22,591	4,54,204	5,32,976

(a) Including the duty raised on the grant of probates and letters of administration.
(b) Excluding ditto ditto ditto.

II.—Civil Courts in the mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

The two villages of Daspara and Bairauk were transferred from the jurisdiction of the Brahmanbaria munsifi in the district of Tippera in Bengal to that of Habiganj in the district of Sylhet in Assam, with effect from the 1st July 1918.

Original suits instituted.

155. The number of suits instituted in 1918 was 709,910, a decrease of 28,284 on the figures of the previous year.

The decrease occurred in money and title suits to the extent of 13·2 and 6·9 per cent., respectively. The number of money suits instituted was 274,609, against 316,418 in 1917.

The total value of suits instituted in 1918 amounted to Rs. 9,06,61,321, showing a decrease of Rs. 17,82,978 on the total for 1917. The decrease was due to the decrease in the institutions during the year.

Local distribution.

156. There was a decrease in the number of suits instituted in 1918 in all districts with the exception of Dinajpur, the 24-Parganas, Burdwan, Birbhum, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Midnapore, Hooghly and Chittagong.

The decrease was marked in Tippera, Faridpur, Dacca and Bakarganj. In the first three districts it occurred chiefly in money suits and in Bakarganj

in rent suits. The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of Mymensingh (72,429), where the number of rent and title suits (35,256 and 6,677, respectively) was the heaviest in the province. In no other district did the institutions exceed 60,000.

In Tippera, institutions were between 50,000 and 60,000. In Dacca, the 24-Parganas, Bakarganj, Faridpur and Midnapore, institutions were between 40,000 and 50,000. Money suits were most numerous in Dacca (30,700). In respect of rent suits, Mymensingh held the first place with 35,256 institutions and Bakarganj the second place with 33,028 institutions.

In the districts of Rangpur, Noakhali and Chittagong, the institutions were between 30,000 and 40,000, in Jessore, Dinajpur, Hooghly, Murshidabad, Nadia, Pabna-Bogra, Rajshahi and Burdwan, between 20,000 and 30,000, and in Khulna and Birbhum between 15,000 and 20,000. Bankura with 12,659 shows the lowest figures.

Nature of suits instituted.

157. The majority of suits instituted was, as usual, for small sums, as the following figures show :—

		Suits for money and moveables.	Suits under the rent law.	Title and other suits.
	Rs.			
Not exceeding	10	13,956	87,149	2,705
	50	116,681	187,823	13,999
	100	67,405	58,315	9,596
	500	70,496	38,127	25,527
Exceeding Rs. 500, or value not stated.		6,071	2,740	9,320
Total	...	274,609	374,154	61,147

In suits for money or moveables 47·5 per cent., and in rent suits 73·4 per cent., were for sums of less than Rs. 50.

In suits under the rent law 98·1 per cent. were for realization of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits 45·2 per cent. were mortgage suits, 39·4 per cent. were for immoveable property, and 4·2 per cent. were for specific relief. The title suits represent in value more than one-third of the total litigation of the province. Of the twenty-seven suits instituted during the year, which were valued at over a lakh, twenty-five were title suits and two were money suits.

Number of suits disposed of.

158. In addition to the 709,910 suits instituted during the year and the 201,012 suits pending trial from the previous year, 11,087 suits were revived, or received on remand or review, making a total of 922,009 for disposal.

The number of suits disposed of was 729,996, a decrease of 10,246 on the figures of 1917.

Of the total number, 698,773 were disposed of by Munsifs, 16,422 by Subordinate Judges, 14,408 by Small Cause Court Judges, and 393 by District and additional Judges. The figures show a decrease in all grades of courts.

Results of suits decided.

159. In the suits disposed of during the year, plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 116,623 cases, or 15·9 per cent., of which 89,967 were dismissed for default; in 76,118 cases, or 10·5 per cent., a compromise was effected. Plaintiffs were successful in 537,255 cases or 73·6 per cent. The results are more favourable to plaintiffs than in the preceding year.

Of the 97,096 suits decided on contest, 82,973, or 85·5 per cent. resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 14,123, or 14·5 per cent. in favour of defendants.

Applications for re-trial.

160. The percentage of applications for re-trial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default, or in which decrees were made *exparte*, was 4·3, the numbers being 22,183 and 509,977, respectively. The applications were successful in 9,802 cases or 44·1 per cent.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

161. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs fell from 700,707 to 698,773, a decrease of 1,934.

The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 2,840, against 2,871 in 1917. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 28·1 per cent. of the total.

The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs was 91,470, or 13 per cent. of the total. The average number of contested suits decided by each Munsif was 372, against 465 in 1917. The percentage of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure was 13·9, and under the Small Cause Court procedure, 10·9. The figures are :—

Under ordinary procedure.		Under Small Cause Court procedure.		Total.
Contested.	Uncontested.	Contested.	Uncontested.	
69,975	432,122	21,495	175,181	698,773

The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows a decrease of 1,707, as compared with 1917.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

162. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 16,422, a decrease of 6,253 on the figures of the previous year. The decrease was in cases decided both under the ordinary procedure and Small Cause Court procedure and was spread over both contested and uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 5,601 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 10,821 ; of these, 34·6 per cent. and 14·7 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentage of suits decided after contest both under the ordinary and Small Cause Court procedures shows a decrease, as compared with the previous year.

Suits disposed of by Small Cause Court Judges.

163. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 14,408 original suits, of which 1,958 were contested. The latter shows a decrease of 659, as compared with the previous year.

Average duration of suits.

164. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided by the several grades of courts is given in the following statement :—

		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Munsifs.	Small Cause Court Judges.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Under ordinary procedure.	contested ...	239	474	231	...
	uncontested	201	269	123	...
Under Small Cause Court procedure.	contested ...	...	111	96	104
	uncontested	...	68	68	70

The results show a general increase in the average duration of suits except in respect of suits decided by Subordinate Judges, both contested and uncontested.

Pending suits.

165. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 192,246, against 201,012 in the previous year. The decrease is chiefly due to the fall in the institutions during the year.

Of the pending cases 4,889 had been pending for more than a year, 64,481 for more than six months, and 46,993 for more than three months. The figures show a considerable increase in the number of suits pending over one year and six months, but an appreciable reduction in the number pending for more than three months. Of the suits pending over one year 2,634 were in the courts of Munsifs and 2,255 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges ; the figures show an increase of 638 and 202, respectively, as compared with 1917.

The number of suits pending over a year was largest in Dacca (926), followed by Faridpur (670), Nadia (444), Hooghly (391), and Noakhali (381). The number of year-old suits in each of these districts shows an increase as compared with the previous year. In Dacca, the congestion was chiefly due to the transfer of a large batch of analogous suits from the courts of the Munsifs to that of the Sub-Judge, 1st Court. In the remaining four districts it occurred principally in the Munsifs' courts. As usual, the delays were generally due to adjournments granted at the request of the parties. Additional assistance was given where necessary.

Execution proceedings.

166. There were 114,867 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 499,179 applications were made during the year. Realization was complete in 136,648 cases and partial in 97,546. In 248,827 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 121,418 remained pending at the close of the year. Execution proceedings were markedly unsuccessful in Dacca, Faridpur and Tippera, the percentages of totally infructuous proceedings being 74·7, 64·6, and 58·6, respectively. The results show a slight improvement in the cases of Dacca and Tippera (from 74·8 and 59·7 to 74·7 and 58·6, respectively). The total amount realized in courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 2,01,32,680.

Debtors were imprisoned in 130 cases; moveable property was sold in 11,703 and immoveable property in 72,517 cases.

Miscellaneous cases.

167. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted rose from 86,828 to 86,983. The number disposed of and pending also rose from 86,599 and 20,283 to 87,393 and 20,838, respectively. Of the cases disposed of, 43,707 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed; 26,027 were decided *ex-parte*, and 17,659 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 49·2 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 229 had been pending more than a year, Hooghly being responsible for the largest number (69).

The number of miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted was 6,746, showing a decrease of 307. Of these, more than half were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 6,432, and the pending file rose from 816 to 1,129. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was highest in the 24-Parganas (499), followed by Hooghly (338), Midnapore (320), Bakarganj (282), and Dinajpur (220).

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Number of suits.

168. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1918 and the number pending at its close were 22,336, 21,609, and 5,856, respectively. Institutions and disposals show a further decrease of 1,035 and 2,993, respectively, while the number pending was more than in 1917 by 1,804. Fifty-five applications were filed under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899).

The decrease in institutions was spread over all classes of suits except those valued at between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000.

The total value of the litigation was Rs. 57,16,693, as against Rs. 51,44,610 in the preceding year.

The average duration of contested and uncontested suits was 113·2 and 53·7 days, against 83·1 and 47·5, respectively, in 1917.

Mode of disposal.

169. Of the 21,609 suits disposed of, 1,032 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, or were withdrawn with leave, 16,804 were decided without contest in the manner shown in the margin, 3,762 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in 11 the plaint was either rejected or returned.

Compromised	...	6,248
Decreed on confession	...	3,506
Decreed *ex parte*	...	6,938
Dismissed *ex parte*	...	112
Total	...	16,804

Of the 5,856 suits pending at the close of the year, 2,977 were over three months old, against 1,747 at the close of the preceding year.

Execution of decrees.

170. Of 48,197 applications for the execution of decrees dealt with during the year, including 8,826 pending from the previous year, 39,685 were determined and 8,512 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the latter, 172 were more than three months old. Of the applications disposed of, 33,056 resulted in whole or partial satisfaction of the decrees granted, 3,727 were returned as wholly infructuous, and 2,902 were transferred to other courts.

The total amount realised was Rs. 11,93,450, as compared with Rs. 12,06,013 in the previous year.

Coercive processes.

171. In order to enforce the execution of decrees, imprisonment was resorted to in 56, and sale of moveables in 185, cases. These figures fall short of those of 1917 by 17 and 229, respectively.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent.

172. Ninety-one appeals from decisions on the Original Side were filed during the year and 55 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 78 were decided and 68 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 37 less than in 1917. On the Appellate Side 16 such appeals were filed during the year and 27 were pending at its commencement. Of these, 24 were decided and 19 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

	Pending at the end of 1917.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1918.
FIRST APPEALS.				
From decrees ...	744	342	399	687
From orders ...	384	219	290	313
SECOND APPEALS.				
From decrees ...	4,340	2,836	3,405	3,771
From orders ...	39	106	140	5
TOTAL ...	5,507	3,503	4,234	4,776

Appeals to the High Court from subordinate courts.

173. The statement in the margin shows the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts of original and appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year. The figures include appeals from the courts of Assam. The number of first and second appeals from decrees was more by 8 and 120 and from orders less by 80 and 22, respectively, than in the preceding year.

Appeals decided.

174. The disposals of first and second appeals from decrees show an increase of 27 and 710, and those of such appeals from orders a decrease of 26 and 10, respectively, on the figures of the previous year.

Appeals pending.

175. At the close of the year, 1,000 first appeals were pending, of which 687 were from decrees and 313 from orders ; and 3,776 second appeals, of which 3,771 were from decrees. The total number pending at the close of the year was 4,776 against 5,507 at the close of the previous year.

Civil work of the High Court.

176. The following statement shows in detail the civil business which has come before the High Court in its appellate jurisdiction during each of the past four years :—

	Brought before the Court. (a)				Heard and determined (a)			
	1915.	1916.	1917	1918.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
First appeals from decrees ...	320	304	334	342	222	499	372	399
First appeals from orders ...	175	258	299	219	174	450	316	290
Second appeals from decrees ..	2,547	2,711	2,716	2,836	2,356	2,793	2,695	3,405
Second appeals from orders	118	108	128	106	116	240	150	140
Appeals under the letters patent ...	169	369	118	107	202	237	344	102
Reference to full bench ...	1	2	...	2	2	2	...	1
Applications for review ...	13	23	15	18	14	20	18	18
References	9	11	9	4	10	11	6	6
Motions	1,232	4,806	5,575	4,931	1,232	4,806	5,575	4,931
Rules granted	841	1,599	948	624	698	1,284	1,121	740
Divorce cases	10	8	4	1	8	5	8	4

(a) Include cases of Assam.

Of the 342 appeals from original decrees instituted during the year under review, nine were from Assam and the remainder from Bengal.

Details of value of appeals.

177. The following table shows the value of the appeals brought before the Court during the year from the original and appellate decrees of the subordinate civil courts :—

	Appeals from original decrees of subordinate civil courts.	Appeals from appellate decrees of subordinate civil courts.	Second and third appeals under the Letters Patent.
Rs.			
10	9	291	14
50	32	855	...
100	4	414	...
500	21	740	...
1,000	14	174	...
5,000	71	174	...
10,000	93	1	1
1,00,000	48	...	1
Exceeding ... 1,00,000	3	...	...
Value not denotable in money ...	(a) 47	(b) 187	...
TOTAL ...	342	2,836	16

(a) Of these, 37 were will cases, 6 for partition, 1 for compensation, 1 matrimonial and 2 under section 92 of the C. P. C. (Act V of 1908).
(b) Of these, 19 were suits for declaration of title, 17 for rent, 4 for partition, 1 for mortgage, and the rest were suits under sections 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Results of appeals.

178. Of the 399 appeals from original decrees decided, 113 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn, or compromised. The results of the appeals decided after contest were that the decrees of the lower courts were confirmed in 201, reversed in 44, and varied in 15 cases, while 26 cases were remanded.

Of the 3,405 appeals from appellate decrees decided, 127 were uncontested and 1,5_0 were dealt with under order XLI, rule 11, of the Civil Procedure Code. One thousand seven hundred and fifty-eight appeals were heard and determined, with the result that 1,399 decrees of the lower courts were affirmed, 154 reversed, and 59 varied, while 146 cases were remanded.

Of the 430 appeals from orders decided, 61 were uncontested, 150 were dealt with under order XLI, rule 11, of the Civil Procedure Code, and 219 were decided after trial, with the result that 137 orders of the lower courts were affirmed, 45 reversed, and 9 varied, and 28 cases were remanded.

The following table shows the results of appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges :—

	Affirmed.		Modified or Reversed.	
	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from original decrees ...	73	128	15	44
Appeals from appellate „ ...	727	672	122	91
Miscellaneous appeals	71	66	36	18

Appeals to the Privy Council.

179. (Including appeals from Bihar and Orissa over which this Court continued to exercise jurisdiction in pursuance of the Letters Patent, dated the 9th February, 1916.) At the opening of the year, 95 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England and 197 were pending for orders. Thirty new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 54 were struck off or compromised, 44 were despatched to England and 224 appeals were pending at the close of the year, *viz.*, 88 of 1914, 14 of 1915, 26 of 1916, 76 of 1917, and 20 of 1918. Of the pending appeals, 130, including 19 from Bihar and Orissa, were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

180. The results of nine appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in six instances and reversed in two; one being remanded. Results of appeals to the Privy Council.

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

181. Twenty thousand seven hundred and seventeen appeals were instituted in 1918, showing an increase of 1,387, as compared with the previous year. Appeals instituted.

Of the appeals instituted, 6,969 were in title suits, 11,340 in rent suits, and 2,408 in suits for money or moveables. The numbers show an increase in the institution of appeals in rent suits, but a decrease in appeals in title and money suits.

The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10, and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50, was 1,985 and 5,163, respectively. The total value of the appeals instituted in the subordinate courts was Rs. 30,50,588; and was less than that of 1917 by Rs. 4,26,473.

The number of cases in which an appeal lay, decided by subordinate courts, was 65,215, and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of revenue officers, was 25·7 per cent., as against 22·8 in 1917. The highest percentages were in Noakhali (53), Rajshahi (39·5), Burdwan (33·3), Khulna (29·7), while the lowest, were in Nadia (18·2), Birbhum (19·2), and Faridpur (19·4).

The number of appeals instituted was larger than in the previous year in eight, and smaller in 13, districts.

The largest increases were in Midnapore (2,672), Noakhali (367), Tippera (110), and Rajshahi (101), while there were noticeable decreases in Mymensingh (514), Nadia (342), Bakarganj (293), Burdwan (248), Khulna (165), and the 24-Parganas (124). In the remaining districts the variations were less than 100.

182. The number of appeals decided (18,860) was more than in 1917 by 579. The increase in disposals was in the courts of Subordinate Judges, while in those of District and additional Judges there was a decrease of 507, as compared with the previous year. The number of appeals disposed of after contest (15,545) was 214 more than in 1917. Appeals disposed of.

The increase in disposal was spread over 11 districts and was the greatest in Nadia (825), followed by Midnapore (637), Tippera (554) and Pabna-Bogra (368). In Nadia a large number of analogous appeals was disposed of in groups. The increase in Midnapore was due partly to the disposal of a considerable number of settlement appeals and partly to the assistance of an additional District Judge; in Tippera it was principally due to the larger outturn of Subordinate Judges, while in Pabna-Bogra it was chiefly due to the temporary assistance given during the year.

On the other hand, there was a noticeable decrease in Noakhali (863), due partly to the inability of District Judge to devote as much time to civil work as in the previous year.

183. There were 20,328 appeals pending at the close of the year, the number being 2,312 more than at the end of 1917. Appeals pending.

The number of appeals pending for more than a year rose during the year from 1,875 to 2,952. The largest number of such appeals was pending in Midnapore (846) where additional assistance has been given.

184. The results on the decision of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year were as follows:—In 9,984 cases, or 53 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed; in 2,441 cases, or 12·9 per cent., it was modified; and in 2,902 cases, or 15·4 per cent., it was reversed. One thousand and thirty-four, or 5·5 per cent., were remanded, and 2,499, or 13·2 per cent., were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results are less favourable to the lower courts than in the preceding year. Results of appeals.

185. Three thousand two hundred and fifty-eight miscellaneous appeals were instituted and 3,257 were disposed of during the year, and 1,107 remained pending at the close of the year. The number pending was 53 more than in the previous year. Miscellaneous appeals.

General.

186. There was a considerable decrease in the number of original suits instituted in the subordinate courts, with a corresponding reduction in the pending file. The number of appeals disposed of was large, but the number pending was greater owing to an increase in institutions. The number of year-old suits and appeals was larger than in the previous year. There was a further rise in institutions on the Appellate Side of the High Court, but owing to a corresponding increase in disposals, there was an appreciable reduction in arrears.

Inspection.

187. The courts of nine Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges and 69 Munsifs were inspected by District and additional District Judges.

Receipts and charges of the civil courts.

188. The receipts of the civil courts in Bengal and of the High Court amounted to Rs. 1,49,02,371, showing an increase of Rs. 1,45,797, and the charges to Rs. 59,53,495 showing a decrease of Rs. 2,46,327 on those of 1917. Including the amount realized on account of duty on probates, etc., the profit to Government from civil litigation amounted to Rs. 89,48,876, and excluding this item, it amounted to Rs. 73,75,680.

	Rs.
In the High Court	13,92,443(a)
In other Courts ...	1,80,753(a)
Total ...	15,73,196

(a) The figures are for the financial year 1918-19.

Details of the receipts and charges are as follows :—

Receipts.			Rs.	*Charges.*			Rs.
In stamps	Process fees	...	29,07,723	Salaries of judicial officers		...	24,30,119
	Other fees	...	1,11,47,085	Establishment	Process-servers		6,36,684
In cash or special stamps.	Fines	...	2,856		Others	...	18,71,740
	Copying and comparing fees	...	5,73,611	Copyists' fees	...	...	4,64,025
	Other receipts	...	2,71,096	Contingencies and refunds		...	5,50,927
	Total	...	1,49,02,371	Total		...	59,53,495

There was an increase in receipts under the heads "Other fees" and "Process fees". Under the former head the increase amounted to more than Rs. 1,79,000. The decrease in expenditure was under all heads except "Process-servers", and was most marked under the head "Salaries of judicial officers," which exceeded Rs. 1,89,000.

CIVIL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

189. The total number of suits instituted during 1918 in the Civil Courts in the scheduled district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts was 346. Of these suits, 342 were for money or moveable property. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 385. Of these suits, 49 were contested and 91 were disposed of without trial. The number pending at the end of the year was 30 The number of miscellaneous cases was 1,630. Of these, 963 were decreed *exparte* and 354 were pending at the close of the year. The total number of appeals from decrees was 50, and the number disposed of was 45. Eleven miscellaneous appeals were preferred and none remained pending at the end of the year. One thousand and forty-six applications were made for execution of decrees, of which 295 were pending at the end of the year.

Registration.

[Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1918. Statistics of British India, Part II—Commercial ; Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Progress and Statistics.

190. Two offices were opened during the year under review, viz., at Kola, in the district of Midnapore and at Jamalpur, in the district of Mymensingh, and the second joint office at Narayanganj, in the district of Dacca was abolished.

There were 407 offices at the end of the year as against 406 at the end of 1917.

The total number of registrations in Books 1, 3 and 4 further decreased from 1,634,185 in 1917 to 1,393,575 in 1918, *i.e.*, by 16·2 per cent. The total receipts of the Department also dropped from Rs. 20,57,316 in 1917 to Rs. 17,75,731 in 1918, *i.e.*, by 13·6 per cent., and the total expenditure from Rs. 10,74,315 in 1917 to Rs. 10,50,471 in 1918, *i.e.*, by 2·2 per cent. The decline in the number of registrations and consequently in the receipts was due to adverse economic conditions. The savings, which would have been larger but for the increase in the pay of menials sanctioned during the year, were mainly due to the expenditure on temporary establishment being less in consequence of the decrease in registrations.

Results.

191. The decrease in the total number of registrations was largest in the Presidency Division, being 23·2 per cent. and was most remarkable in the district of Khulna where it was as much as 33·4 per cent., the fall being chiefly under mortgages. In the Chittagong Division the decrease was 17·6 per cent. The fall was heaviest in the district of Tippera where it was mainly under the heads sale, mortgage and lease on account of distress in parts of the district. In Dacca Division there was a decrease of 14·3 per cent. The decline was heaviest in the Bakarganj district where it was 25·1 per cent., the fall being chiefly in mortgages. The fall in Burdwan Division was 13·1 per cent., while it was most noticeable in the district of Midnapore where it was 16·2 per cent. mostly under sale and mortgage. In Bankura where distress prevailed towards the close of the year, registrations fell off by 13·7 per cent. The decrease has been the least in the Rajshahi Division, being 12·2 per cent. It was most remarkable in the district of Dinajpur where it was 19·4 per cent., the fall being mainly under mortgages and lease. The causes for the decrease are generally the unsatisfactory condition of the monsoon and the general rise in the price of all necessaries of life which affected the bulk of the population who had not much money to spare for investment in land. The money-lenders also experienced difficulty in collecting their dues and were generally reluctant to grant further loans. The more prosperous agricultural seasons of recent years generally enabled the poorer classes to tide over so far without selling or mortgaging their lands.

In Calcutta registrations rose by 4·7 per cent., the increase being under the heads sales, leases and other compulsory registrations affecting immovable property. The increase was due partly to the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust and partly to the affluent condition of certain classes of trades in piece-goods, etc., who had been making enormous profits and who invested their surplus funds in landed property for which they paid high price. The increased demands for coal also led to the execution of a number of mining leases for coal lands of inferior value.

WORKING OF THE MARRIAGE ACT III OF 1872.

Working of the Marriage Act III of 1872.

192. Forty-three marriages were registered during the year 1918 under the Marriage Act III of 1872, against 32 in 1917. Out of these 38 were registered in Calcutta, 2 in Howrah, 2 in Dacca and 1 in Mymensingh. There were 48 Marriage Registrars at the end of the year 1918 as against 49 at the end of 1917.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act and the Kazis Act.

193. The Bengal Act I of 1876 (an Act for the voluntary Registration of Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces) was in force throughout the province. There were 286 offices at the end of the year 1918 against 278 at the end of 1917. Total number of ceremonies registered during the year under review was 57,762 against 65,126 in 1917, showing a decrease of 11·3 per cent. The total receipts of the Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis, including gratuity, amounted to Rs. 1,13,620 in the year under report against Rs. 1,32,634 in 1917, showing a decrease of 14·3 per cent. The decrease in the number of registrations appears to be due to economic causes, such as agricultural depression, the high prices of necessaries and comforts of life, the scarcity of money and the contraction of credit, which affected the condition of people generally and stood in the way of their solemnising as many ceremonies as in previous years.

The Statutory Rules under the Act were amended during the year which made several important changes in the procedure. The system of taking thumb impressions of the parties to a ceremony at the time of registration thereof has been introduced with a view to present false personation. Advisory Committees have been established at the headquarters station of each district in order to assist the District Registrar in nominating candidates for Muhammadan Registrarships, while the functions of the Permanent Committee have been restricted to those of an advisory body on general questions, to assist the Inspector-General of Registration in conducting the Departmental Examination and in the selection of candidates for appointment within the Presidency town. Questions of transfer and punishment have been left to be dealt with by the Inspector-General of Registration with the assistance of the District Registrar.

Working of the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913).

194. The number of limited companies in operation in Bengal at the close of the year numbered 1,267 with a total nominal capital of Rs. 1,24,34,61,640 and a paid up capital of Rs. 45,66,63,797, as compared with 1,178 companies with Rs. 1,18,26,76,140 nominal and Rs. 41,99,34,504 paid up capital in the preceding year. That two hundred and four companies were registered during the year against 166 in 1917-18, is very significant in view of the fact that the Indian Companies Restriction Act, 1918 (XII of 1918), a purely war measure, came into force on the 22nd March 1918 and was in operation throughout the year. Under this Act no new public company could be registered or existing public company increase its shares, issue debentures, or call up unpaid capital without obtaining a license from the Governor General in Council. Of the new companies registered during the year 172 were limited by shares, five by guarantee, and 27 incorporated under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860). Two hundred and thirty-five companies increased, while 15 companies decreased their capital; the corresponding figures for the preceding year being 239 and 40, respectively.

Eighty-three companies ceased to work, went into liquidation and were finally dissolved or otherwise became defunct, against 41 in the previous year. The total net receipts of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies from all sources during the year amounted to Rs. 64,398 compared with Rs. 61,743-9 in 1917-18.

Only one new auditor's certificate under the provisions of section 144 (*a*) of the Act was granted during the year, while two such certificates lapsed and one was cancelled during the year. The register of auditors at the close of the year showed that 15 auditors certified by Government were entitled to audit companies' accounts throughout British India, while the operations of 16 such certificate-holders were restricted to this Presidency.

There were 35 prosecutions under the Indian Companies Act during the year. Of these, ten ended in convictions, 22 were withdrawn or struck off, 1 ended in acquittal, and two remained pending at the close of the year.

Working of the Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912 (V of 1912).

195. No new societies were registered during the year under the Provident Insurance Societies Act, but 25 ceased to exist. Fewer complaints against the companies were received, but this follows naturally from the fact that so few companies have survived the trying experience to which they were subjected during the last five years.

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of municipalities in the Bengal Presidency (except Calcutta) during the year 1918-19. Statistics of British India—Part VIII—Local Funds.]

Number of municipalities.

196. The number of municipalities remained unchanged, viz., 115.

Elections.

197. The elective system was introduced in Budge Budge and general elections were held in 68 municipalities. They were, as a rule, keenly contested, but there was no poll in 9 towns, and in three others the rate-payers having failed to elect some of the Commissioners, Government

had to appoint them under section 16 of the Bengal Municipal Act. Eight elections were followed by litigation in the civil courts or objections before the District Magistrate. Pending the decision of the civil suits, new municipal boards could not be formed at Rishra-Konnagar and Serajganj.

Meetings.

198. Altogether 150 meetings, or one in every 15, failed for want of a quorum. At Murshidabad 7 out of 19 meetings proved abortive. The Commissioners of seven municipalities failed to hold one meeting a month.

Ratepayers and Voters.

199. The total number of ratepayers rose from 316,563 to 317,117, or a little over 16 per cent. of the population residing within municipal limits. The ratio varied from 38·7 per cent. in Bogra to 3·6 per cent. in Titagarh, a mill town with a large cooly population. The average number of voters per elected Commissioner is 159. It falls below 100 in 37 municipalities, the minimum being 31, and it is over 300 in only 13 towns: the maximum (892) is reached in Howrah.

Assessment and taxation.

200. The average incidence of taxation per head of the population rose from Rs. 2-4-11 to Rs. 2-9-1. Latrine rates were levied in 99 municipalities, water rates in 23 and a lighting rate in 4 municipalities. A water rate and a latrine rate were imposed for the first time in Uttarpara and a latrine rate in Ghatal. The threats of the Calcutta Corporation to cut off the water-supply in consequence of non-payment of its dues compelled the Commissioners of Tollygunge to raise the water rate to the maximum permissible under the law. There was an increase in the water rate at Narayanganj, in the latrine rates at Netrakona and Sherpur, in the house rate at Baranagar and in the tax on persons at Jamalpur. In Comilla rate on holdings was introduced in lieu of the tax on persons.

Revision of assessment.

201. General or partial revisions of assessment took place in 68 municipalities. New assessments were responsible for an increase in the demand in 14 municipalities, but 22 municipalities report a net reduction of revenue due to remissions on appeal or poverty or other reasons not properly explained. The number of appeals is sometimes abnormal; in one ward of Howrah for instance, there were 2,335 revised valuations and 2,096 appeals were made; in such circumstances delay in disposal of appeals is inevitable and collections suffer.

Collections.

202. There was a satisfactory increase of 5 lakhs in collections, the average percentage on the current demand rising from 92·3 to 97·7. Remissions represented 3·6 per cent. on the current demand. In Bansberia, Burdwan, Taki and Serampore the ratio varied from 10 to 16 per cent. In the Presidency, as a whole, the outstanding balances fell from Rs. 6,12,128 to Rs. 5,40,076. Eight municipalities had no outstanding balances and in 16 other cases they were less than Rs. 100, but they were heavy in 12 towns. Rampur-Boalia had nearly one-third of its current demand in arrear in the beginning of the year and, so far from any improvement being effected, there was a further increase at its end.

Income and expenditure.

203. The aggregate receipts, including opening balances, rose from Rs. 83,58,974 to Rs. 89,06,396, the income from rates and taxes rising by nearly 5¾ lakhs. The aggregate expenditure rose from Rs. 66,74,302 to Rs. 69,67,662, the largest increase, viz., Rs. 1,61,922, being under the head of "Public Health and Convenience."

General administration and collection charges.

204. The expenditure under this head was practically stationary and represented 8 per cent. of the total expenditure. The highest percentages were returned by Taki (27·7), North Dum-Dum (23·5) and Debhatta (20·4).

Public instruction.

205. The amount spent on education was Rs. 2,94,718 or 4½ per cent. of the municipal income. The actual increase was Rs. 33,204, and as Government grants exceeded those for the previous year by only Rs. 9,143, it may be inferred that the municipalities are showing greater readiness to discharge their obligations towards primary education. Twenty-four municipalities, however, or one in every five (as against 17 in the previous year) failed to spend even 3·2 per cent. of their ordinary income—this percentage is taken to represent the amount required for the education of half the boys of primary school-going age. On the other hand, 44 municipalities spent more than 5 per cent. of their income, and 9 over 10 per cent. on primary education. The largest proportion of municipal income devoted to this object was 18 per cent. in Muktagacha.

Water-supply. 206. The Uttarpara water-works scheme was completed during the year and substantial progress was made with those designed for Dacca, Mymensingh and Satkhira. The construction of the waterworks at Nator was impeded by the rains setting in unusually early, but the project was nearly completed by the end of the year. The Midnapore water-supply scheme has been revised and the cost is now estimated at Rs. 4,73,000, towards which Government is making a grant of Rs. 2,23,000, while the municipality is also taking a loan of one lakh from Government. A scheme for the supply of filtered water to Krishnagar received the final sanction of Government, which is making grants totalling Rs. 2,06,800. Cossipore-Chitpur extended its pipe system and Berhampore carried out improvements in its waterworks. The Commissioners of Faridpur resolved to introduce a piped water-supply, for which a scheme is being prepared. A sketch project for Patuakhali received the administrative sanction of Government; a scheme for Comilla was under preparation. The problem of water-supply in the town of Noakhali became acute owing to the threatened erosion by the sea of the tank which is the only source of water-supply.

Drainage. 207. Minor works were carried out in Asansol, Garden Reach, Midnapore, Serampore, Champdani, Berhampore and Madaripur. A drainage scheme in Bhatpara is nearing completion, and some progress was made in Mymensingh, where the Municipal Commissioners are carrying out a comprehensive project in instalments. The drainage schemes of Suri and Hooghly-Chinsura could not be taken up for want of funds, and the execution of those prepared for Faridpur and Comilla had also to be postponed.

Conservancy. 208. There was an increase of Rs. 89,268 under this head, the Howrah Municipality being responsible for Rs. 58,448. A sewerage scheme, for which Government are making a grant of Rs. 50,000 and a loan of Rs. 30,000, is being carried out at Kurseong by the Sanitary Engineer. A beginning was made with the Dacca sewerage scheme, the total cost of which will aggregate Rs. 30 lakhs, of which Rs. 25 lakhs will be met by Government grants and the balance by a loan.

Public Health. 209. A gratifying feature of the year under review is the increasing interest displayed by most municipalities in public health. Measures were taken in many municipalities for the improvement of sanitation by filling up or clearing insanitary tanks, ditches and *dobas* and by removing jungle and noxious vegetation. Nawabganj is contemplating the adoption of a flood-flush scheme, for which a detailed survey has been begun. A detailed project has been prepared for a similar scheme at Budge-Budge. In Panihati three anti-malarial co-operative societies were formed, which did useful work in filling up insanitary tanks and clearing away jungle and undergrowth on the holdings of their members.

There was a serious epidemic of influenza during the year. Steps were taken to check the spread of the disease by free distribution of medicine, and in some cases, of diet, and by the circulation of printed instructions as well as by the appointment of special doctors. Epidemics of cholera were combated by disinfection, the protection of sources of water-supply and the employment of a special staff of medical officers. The number of vaccinators employed is reported to have been sufficient in the majority of cases, and free vaccination has been introduced in several municipalities. Lantern lectures on hygiene and public health were given by Health Officers, and in some places quinine was distributed free to school boys and others during the malarial season.

Improvement Schemes. 210. Towards the end of the year the companies owning mills along the east bank of the Hooghly between Halishahar and Kamarhati initiated an important scheme involving combined action for the improvement of municipal sanitation. They decided to contribute at the rate of Rs. 100 per loom in the case of jute mills, and proportionately on the basis of the number of hands employed in the case of paper mills, towards such schemes of improvement as might be prepared by the Sanitary Engineer for the municipalities in which their mills are situated. Nearly 19 lakhs were deposited by them for improvement schemes in the towns of Halishahar, Naihati, Bhatpara, Garulia, Titaghar, Kamarhati and Bhadreswar.

Public Works. 211. The construction and maintenance of roads and buildings were handicapped by the high cost of materials and the difficulty of obtaining

them. The proportion which the outlay on public works bore to the total expenditure varied in the smaller towns from 2·4 per cent. in Birnagar to 46·2 per cent. in Debhatta and in larger towns from 3·5 in Bhadreswar to 40·3 in the South Suburban Municipality.

Loans.

212. Altogether 39 municipalities were in debt to Government at the end of the year, the total amount of their outstanding liabilities on the 31st March 1919 being Rs. 41,48,994 in addition to Rs. 7,361 due for loans taken from private sources. The largest outstanding liabilities were those of Howrah (Rs. 20,57,351), Darjeeling (Rs. 6,18,145), and Dacca (Rs. 4,23,557). Meherpur and English Bazar liquidated their loans during the year. The Commissioners of Birnagar were directed by the Divisional Commissioner to refund a sum of Rs. 7,500 which was taken by them as a loan from private sources without the sanction of Government.

Closing Balances.

213. The closing balances rose from Rs. 16,84,672 to Rs. 19,38,734, the largest being held by Howrah (Rs. 2,39,084), Dacca (Rs. 2,34,079), Midnapore (Rs. 1,98,138), Maniktala (Rs. 1,22,253), Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 1,20,571) and Darjeeling (Rs. 1,18,850). No explanation has been furnished for the large balance in Howrah ; in other cases they were mainly due to unexpended grants and the accumulation of funds for water-supply and drainage schemes. In ten municipalities, as against 15 in the previous year, the outstanding liabilities exceeded the closing balances.

Audit of accounts and embezzlements.

214. Embezzlements occurred in Burdwan, Raniganj, Baranagar, Basirhat, Rajpur and Mymensingh. The accounts of Barasat were found to be in such confusion that Government had to pass special orders in exercise of its power of superior control. Even then the municipal executive pleaded inability to remove all the defects, as the irregularities extended over several years and some of the registers and papers had been eaten by white-ants.

General remarks.

215. There is a reiterated and general complaint of the inadequacy of municipal funds to maintain any high standard of administration combined with a general disinclination on the part of Municipal Boards to raise funds for the purpose. As shown above, however, the rates have been enhanced in some cases, and allowance must also be made for the economic stress of the year, in consequence of which Municipal Commissioners were naturally averse to impose extra taxation. This aversion, however, persists during times of prosperity as well as in lean years ; and the fact remains that many Boards have only elementary ideas of the duties and responsibilities of municipal administration. The incidence of taxation is below Re. 1 per head in more than one-fourth of the municipalities, and at this figure it is impossible to expect much in the way of civic amenities.

In some towns party spirit is carried to extreme lengths and has deplorable results. Too often there is opposition to the executive simply for the sake of obstructiveness with the result that the administration is paralyzed. In one municipality, for instance, it is reported that "between the two factions prevailing scarcely any practical work can be extracted either from the clerical or out-door staff." Party spirit, however, if based on principles and not on personal considerations and interests, is not to be deprecated. Healthy opposition is necessary to sound municipal life ; where it is absent, administration is apt to be ineffective and slack. One of the great needs of municipal life in Bengal at present is the awakening of public spirit among the ratepayers so as to enforce the responsibility of the Municipal Commissioners for feeble or bad administration. A few ratepayers' associations have been started, but so far they are not very enlightened or effective. Want of public spirit on the part of the Commissioners themselves is frequently noticeable. In one municipality the Commissioners are reported to be always anxious to keep the approaches to their own houses in repair at the expense of more deserving roads. In another encroachments on the roads, already too narrow, are common and action is seldom taken because the Chairman and some of the Commissioners are themselves the worst offenders. In another district the Magistrate suggests that simple sanitary lectures should be given to Municipal Commissioners illustrated with magic lantern slides, in order to stimulate their interest in and knowledge of questions of public health.

Another regrettable feature of the year's work is the failure of many municipal authorities to act on the suggestions made by inspecting officers

and to remedy defects pointed out by them. This is especially the case in regard to public health. One District Magistrate, for instance, writes :— "Deputy Sanitary Commissioners come and inspect and record notes showing what should be done, and little is done. District Magistrates achieve similar results." He suggests that the present state of affairs shows the necessity for giving the sanitary authorities greater power of control.

Howrah.

216. A general election which was held in December 1918 caused considerable excitement, but the Commissioner of the Division observes that it was decided on purely personal considerations, and that there is nothing to show that the voters were influenced in any way by questions either of policy or principle. The valuation of the town has been steadily rising since 1911, viz., from 37¼ lakhs to nearly 66½ lakhs ; and during the year under review the total ordinary income rose by over 3 lakhs, viz., from Rs. 10,31,000 to Rs. 13,46,000. Part of this increase, however, is accounted for by a lakh which was paid by the East Indian Railway on the last working day of the preceding year having been credited to the municipal fund during the year under review. The current demand on account of taxes rose by about Rs. 80,000 and amounted to Rs. 11,78,043. The percentage of total collections on the current demand reached the high figure of 100·8, and the remissions amounted to Rs. 60,000 or 5·6 per cent. of the current demand. The total ordinary expenditure grew from 10 to 12 lakhs. The balance outstanding at the close of the year was reduced from Rs. 2,21,000 to Rs. 1,42,000. As in the previous year, normal receipts exceeded normal expenditure, but many schemes for the improvement of the municipality remain in abeyance. An increase in the supply of filtered water and the improvement of the drainage system are urgently required, and so long as these and other reforms are not carried out it is difficult to subscribe to the view expressed by the Chairman that the municipality is in a position to meet its ordinary requirements without raising the rates. There was very little capital outlay on water-supply, while the maintenance charges went up by over Rs. 44,000. The supply is reported to have been excellent in quality but deficient in quantity, and the Sanitary Engineer complains of very great waste of water due to insufficient metering of private connections within the municipality. No new drainage works were executed within the year, and the canal scheme had again to be postponed as the loan received from Government for the purpose has been spent on the waterworks. The powers of the Municipal Commissioners in respect of general conservancy arrangements and the cleaning of roads, *bastis* and drains were delegated to ten ward committees which were formed experimentally for one year from September 1918. The Chairman is of opinion that the conservancy of the town has perceptibly improved under the new arrangements. The expenditure on conservancy rose by over half a lakh, and it is not clear how much of the increase was due to the change of system. There was a satisfactory increase in the expenditure on the maintenance of roads, which had been neglected for some time, but shortage of wagons and the high price of road metal caused difficulties similar to those experienced in the preceding year. After the close of the year the Municipal Commissioners applied for the appointment of a whole-time salaried officer as Deputy Chairman in order that the Chairman might be relieved of a portion of his work. This request was acceded to by Government.

Burdwan Division.

217. The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division remarks that the working of the municipalities in his Division was on the whole fairly satisfactory. The Burdwan and Hooghly-Chinsura Municipalities were under the administration of the local officers of Government for the last six months of the year in consequence of the supersession of the Municipal Commissioners. The first step to be taken was to put the finances of the municipalities in order. In the case of Burdwan the assessment was found to be inadequate and inequitable, and a special revision was undertaken under the orders of Government which resulted in an increase of Rs. 27,000 or 22 per cent. over the previous demand—this, however, is liable to reduction on appeal. Before the end of the year the financial condition of the municipality had been substantially improved.

When the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality was taken over by Government, the office was found to be in a chaotic condition and it took some time

to reduce it to order. The ascertained liabilities, apart from loans, amounted to Rs. 32,027, whilst the cash balance was only Rs. 850. Further liabilities continued to come to light and by the close of the year it had been ascertained that at the time of assumption of charge they had amounted to nearly Rs. 37,000. A sum of Rs. 30,000 was advanced by Government at the end of December to meet the liabilities and other urgent requirements. The steps taken to improve collections met with considerable success and the realizations exceeded the current demand. The District Magistrate reports :—

"A policy of economy was followed and retrenchments were effected wherever possible. The valuation of holdings has been revised under an order of Government, and the water rate has been raised to the maximum permissible. It was largely due to the reluctance of the Commissioners to effect the necessary enhancement of the water rate that the waterworks was mismanaged, and that the water-supply fund continually drew on the general funds and caused the starvation of other necessary works, such as repairs to roads and repairs to and cleaning of drains. The arrangements for the supply of coal, which were extravagant and defective, were remedied immediately charge was assumed. It is of course out of the question that funds should be immediately available to repair the neglect of years, but there is no reason why with careful supervision the municipality should not be gradually brought into thoroughly good order."

Since the close of the year the orders superseding both these municipalities have been withdrawn.

It was found necessary during the preceding year to administer a warning to the Municipal Commissioners of Serampore and Bansberia as to the necessity of reform. It appears that in both towns this warning has been effectual in securing some improvement. In Serampore steps are being taken to realize recoverable demands, but the Commissioner reports that the municipality is working at a deficit of over Rs. 6,500 and living on unauthorized advances from subsidiary funds. If, however, the dues of the municipality were realized, it would be in a strong position financially.

In Bansberia a revision of assessment resulted in a decreased demand, and at the end of the year the liabilities exceeded the cash balance. Since the close of the year however a new Board has been formed. There has been some improvement in the financial position and the outlook is said to be hopeful. The substitution of a tax on holdings for the personal tax now imposed appears however to be necessary in order to secure funds adequate for the needs of the town, and the Municipal Commissioners have been requested to consider this suggestion.

In Rishra-Konnagar work was brought to a standstill by the issue of an *exparte* injunction of the Munsif of Serampore restraining the Chairman from forming a new Board. It is pleasant to notice the cordial relations between the European and Indian members of the Bhadreswar Board, all of whom take a lively interest in municipal affairs. Champdani is settling down to useful work. Notwithstanding its small income Kotrung continues to be efficiently managed.

In Bankura there was considerable discontent with the administration of the Municipal Board. The action taken by Government in the case of Burdwan and Hooghly-Chinsura is said to have spurred the residents into forming a Ratepayers' Association, and an organised effort to infuse new blood into the management proved successful, the result of the elections being to change almost entirely the personnel of the Board.

218. The Magistrate of the 24-Parganas observes :—"The past year has not seen any very marked improvement in the general level of municipal administration. While the affairs of the larger municipalities continued on the whole to be managed satisfactorily, in several of the rural municipalities there was a failure on the part of the Municipal Commissioners and the executive to realise their responsibilities. In Garden Reach, Cossipore-Chitpur, Baranagar, Titagarh, Bhatpara, Naihati and Baruipur a real effort is made by the Commissioners to improve gradually the standard of administration. Presidency Division.

It is regretted that the proposal for a joint water-supply scheme for the riparian municipalities was not approved by most of the mill municipalities. Without such a scheme small riverside municipalities like North Barrackpore and Panihati cannot hope, under present circumstances, ever to have a satisfactory water-supply. Individual schemes are impossible from a financial point of view. Very little was done in rural areas towards improvement of water-supply. Generally Municipal Commissioners approved in principle of reserving tanks, but were unwilling to do so in practice. Gobardanga and Baruipur were exceptions.

Want of money prevents most of the smaller municipalities from carrying out pucca drainage schemes, and in any case such drains are not of much use without arrangements for a regular flush. The condition of markets was one of the most unsatisfactory features in a number of municipalities. Too often the interests of the proprietors, who were well represented on the Municipal Board, were allowed to outweigh the interests of the public health.

Many of the defects cannot be remedied because many of the municipalities are too poor to be able to afford an up-to-date administration, but in too many cases the defects are due to failure on the part of the Commissioners and their executive to realise their responsibility to the rate-payers. There are too many Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen who are too busy with their public or private business to be able to afford the time required to look after municipal business, and, in consequence, everything is left to a badly paid and inferior subordinate staff with the natural results. But there are signs here and there that the rate-payers are awaking to the fact that under present conditions they are not getting the best possible results and are inclined to demand from their Commissioners and executive more attention to their local duties."

The administration of municipalities in the Nadia district has shown some improvement except in the unhealthy and decadent towns of Chakdaha and Birnagar. Party faction of a bad type is said to be rampant among the Commissioners of Santipur, Nabadwip and Ranaghat.

The general complaint of all the municipalities in Murshidabad is want of funds, which handicaps their efforts to improve their systems of drainage and water-supply.

Dacca Division. 219. In the Dacca Division the public and the Municipal Commissioners are taking an increased interest in municipal work, some advance has been made in the direction of recognizing the advantages of a good water-supply, and there are signs that the value of efficient drainage is beginning to be understood.

The insufficiency of funds for carrying out ordinary work remains the most marked general characteristic of the municipalities of Mymensingh. In towns where the Municipal Commissioners are trying to improve matters, the results are uneven. For instance in one town the trenching ground was very well managed but there was only one rubbish cart. In Mymensingh progress has been made with the improvement of the water-supply. Of the other municipalities Sherpur and Jamalpur are reported to be the most progressive. Excluding Bajitpur, which is little more than a village, Kishorganj, a future headquarters of a district, is said to be the worst. Roads are bad, conservancy is inefficient and lighting is defective, but the Commissioners seem to be content with a small income, the incidence of taxation being only 10 annas and 8 pies.

The health of Barisal has improved owing to the introduction of the waterworks, but adequate steps are not taken by the Commissioners to prevent waste of water. Its requirements necessitate an increase of taxation to which the majority of the present Commissioners are averse. In Jhalakati and Patuakhali the sanitary arrangements are inadequate and a more energetic administration is desirable. The waterworks of Pirojpur proved a failure and had to be closed down, but the filter-beds have since been repaired under the supervision of the Sanitary Engineer and the supply has been resumed.

Chittagong Division. 220. No marked progress was made by the Chittagong Municipality during the year. The water rate levied was insufficient, and the total

expenditure exceeded the receipts by Rs. 14,930. The Municipal Commissioners have however raised the rate from April 1919. Difficulties were caused by house-owners refusing to fix meters at their own cost. They contested the legality of the statutory rule prescribing this procedure; an appeal to the High Court has been decided in favour of the Municipal Commissioners. Cox's Bazar and Comilla were efficiently administered. In Chandpur the roads were in bad order, and no important work could be taken up for want of funds. In Brahmanbaria an epidemic of cholera which broke out is ascribed to the absence of a supply of good drinking water: a waterworks scheme was prepared in 1915 but is apparently pending with the Municipal Board. Noakhali suffered from the erosion of the sea, which if continued may cause its disappearance; in the meantime the destruction of property is seriously diminishing its income.

Rajshahi Division.

221. The Commissioner observes that with two exceptions all the municipalities of the division have shown some progress, but much more is required. The Municipal Commissioners as a rule are lacking in that sense of public spirit and responsibility which is necessary to good municipal administration. The two exceptions to which the Commissioner refers are Pabna and Rampur Boalia. Pabna suffered from bad collections and want of initiative and energy on the part of the municipal executive. Rampur Boalia was, as usual, characterized by lack of method and effective control, and its financial position remained unsatisfactory: the uncollected taxes at the end of the year amounted to more than one-third of the current demand for the year. Bogra carried out a general revision of assessment, and collections were good in Sherpur, but the financial position of both municipalities still leaves room for improvement. The administration of Nator and Dinajpur was satisfactory. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Kurseong took a keen interest in municipal affairs and did much for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the town. Darjeeling with an able Chairman and Secretary maintained a high standard of administration. The death of the Vice-Chairman, Dr. Seal, whose experience of municipal work had extended over almost a quarter of a century, was a great loss to the town. In the three municipalities of Malda the Municipal Commissioners work harmoniously; two of them, however, are so small and their resources so limited that there can be no dispute as to how the funds should be employed. At the same time it is gratifying to observe that they are making the most of their opportunities.

Calcutta Municipality.

[Report on the Administration of the Calcutta Municipality for the year 1918-19. Statistics of British India, Part III—Local Funds.]

General.

222. Owing to difficulties caused by the war, the Corporation has for some time past been compelled to curtail its expenditure on capital works and to husband its resources in order to meet loan liabilities. With the conclusion of hostilities the position has become easier, and the way is open for the execution of schemes which have in many cases been long deferred.

Revenue Funds.

223. The revenue funds opened with a balance of Rs. 55,52,903. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 1,35,61,519 and the payments to Rs. 1,27,74,868. The closing balance at the end of the year reached the high figure of Rs. 63,39,554, the result largely of the curtailment of work caused by the war. On the basis of assets and liabilities, the income amounted to Rs. 1,35,69,257 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,26,51,363.

Loans.

224. The 4 per cent. loan of 1897-98 for Rs. 15,54,700 was repaid during the year and a new loan of Rs. 11,04,500 was raised. At the end of the year the Corporation's liability on account of loans was Rs. 4,70,66,800. The loan charges on the outstanding debt amounted to Rs. 29,91,100, and the sinking funds had a balance of Rs. 40,18,999 after writing down securities (Rs. 49,06,000) to market value.

Assessment Department.

225. The assessed annual valuation of the city rose to Rs. 504¼ lakhs at the end of the year under report; there being an increase of 23⅓ lakhs due to

general revision and to intermediate valuations of properties on account of new construction.

Surveyor's Department.

226. The year was one of considerable activity in the Surveyor's Department owing to a large number of improvement schemes being taken up. Plans and estimates were prepared for 156 projects covering an area of over 358 bighas and estimated to cost Rs. 124 lakhs. Nearly 38 bighas of land were acquired during the year at a total cost of Rs. 7½ lakhs.

Collection Department.

227. The total demand was Rs. 94,46,510, of which Rs. 91,41,386 was collected and Rs. 2,28,382 remitted or cancelled as irrecoverable. The percentage of collection on the total demand, less the amount pending with the Assessor, was 97·92 and that on the net current demand was 99·88.

Bustee Department.

228. The work of *bustee* improvement was pushed on with vigour. Huts were removed from 29 bighas of *bustee* land; bustee roads of an aggregate length of about a mile were opened out, and action was taken for the improvement of 50 private passages.

Water-supply.

229. The total quantity of water supplied during the year amounted to a little over 64 (36 filtered and 28 unfiltered) million gallons a day. The daily average consumption per head within the municipal area was 38·7 gallons of filtered and 31·3 gallons of unfiltered water.

Drainage.

230. No project of any magnitude was undertaken during the year. A committee of experts appointed to advise on the subject recorded their opinion that the Bidyadhari is now a suitable outfall for the drainage of Calcutta without resort to further pumping, and suggested that the spill area should be extended and that the training works should be continued. Government acquired towards the close of the year an area of a square mile for an additional spill area. It is expected that this, together with other measures in contemplation, will have a marked effect in further improving the condition of the river.

Lighting Department.

231. The improvement in street lighting was well maintained and the lighting conducted with economy. The restrictions in regard to the supply of coal having been removed, 3,472 lamps, which had been put out of use, were relit.

Roads.

232. The total expenditure on the maintenance of roads and footpaths amounted to Rs. 7,47,000 as against Rs. 7,66,000 in 1917-18. On account of the difficulty of obtaining materials the road repair programme had to be curtailed to some extent. Owing to the success of the asphaltum pavement in streets carrying a fairly heavy traffic, experiments were made in streets where traffic is easier with layers of a thinner carpet and in some cases with painting the road surface, and the results have been almost uniformly good.

Conservancy.

233. The expenditure on street cleaning, the municipal railway, and the incinerator at Goragatcha amounted to Rs. 13,75,000 as compared with Rs. 10,40,000 in 1917-18. A considerable sum was spent in improving the refuse railway lines and in repairs to the rolling stock. The question of introducing motor traction for the removal of refuse was under the consideration of the Corporation. Since the close of the year it has been decided to purchase nine lorries and two trailers. The total quantity of refuse dealt with during the year was 453,000 tons.

Food Inspection.

234. There were 94 prosecutions for adulteration of ghee, and 68 cases ended in conviction. Fines aggregating Rs. 18,110 were imposed by the Municipal Magistrate. Altogether 1,693 samples of ghee were analyzed during the year, and only about 15 per cent of the samples were found adulterated as compared with 23 per cent. in 1917-18. The reduction in the percentage of adulterated samples points to an improvement in the quality of ghee sold. The complaints which are made in regard to bad ghee would appear to be more with reference to the quality of the article used in sweetmeat shops, which are outside the scope of the Act: the samples of sweetmeats examined during the year showed that in 35 per cent. of the cases adulterated ghee had been used.

The total number of samples of foodstuffs of all kinds analyzed during the year was 3,729 as against 2,075 in the previous year, and 876 samples were found adulterated. The proportion of samples of milk found adulterated was smaller than in 1917-18 (35 per cent. against 46 per cent.), but the percentage in the case of mustard oil was considerably larger (54 per cent

as compared with 33 per cent.) Altogether 1,833 prosecutions were instituted and fines aggregating Rs. 47,706 were imposed. The total quantity of unwholesome food stuffs destroyed during the year was 3.744 maunds, being an increase of nearly 500 maunds over the previous year's figure.

A special Inspector was deputed to inspect all the principal trains at Howrah and examine the articles brought for sale. A large quantity of unwholesome stuffs, which would otherwise have found their way into the markets in Calcutta and escaped detection, was thus destroyed immediately on arrival at Howrah.

Milk supply.

235. A scheme for establishing a municipal dairy farm, at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs, has been generally approved by the Corporation, but the matter has been kept in abeyance pending an amendment of the existing law so as to give power to the Corporation to establish municipal dairy farms and take other measures necessary for the improvement of the milk supply.

Markets.

236. The municipal markets, which are an important asset of the Corporation, were efficiently managed. To remove the difficulty experienced by the public in getting supplies of coke and coal at reasonable prices, the Corporation opened five municipal depôts where coke and coal were sold, in cartloads and retail, at prices fixed by the Coal Controller. The opening of these depôts brought down prices; thereafter the Corporation gave up direct management and leased out the depôts. Action was also taken by the Corporation in concert with the oil companies to control the retail prices of kerosene oil. The arrangement worked well and minimized opportunities for profiteering.

Municipal Magistrates.

237. The total number of prosecutions during the year amounted to Rs. 18,849 and the number of cases disposed of was 18,187. The total amount of fines imposed was Rs. 1,22,385 as compared with Rs. 1,16,624 in 1917-18. The increase was due to heavier fines being inflicted in food adulteration and certain other cases.

Hackney-carriage Department.

238. The Calcutta Hackney-carriage Act of 1919 was passed at the close of the year, and the department, which had been under the control of the Corporation since 1878, was transferred to the Commissioner of Police on the 15th July 1919.

The total number of hackney-carriages registered during the year decreased from 3,123 to 3,041. The number of second-class carriages registered was somewhat less than in the previous year, and there was a further falling off in the number of third-class carriages, viz., from 1,080 to 1,028. There were 2,482 prosecutions as compared with 1,601 in the preceding year, and the total amount of fines imposed was Rs. 9,824. The total receipts of the Hackney-carriage Fund amounted to Rs. 30,791.

Education.

239. The value of the grants and concessions made to educational institutions of all kinds aggregated Rs. 1,06,826 as compared with Rs. 85,525 in the previous year. Certain educational institutions were altogether exempted from municipal rates, and the amount of indirect aid thereby given was Rs. 25,505. A number of institutions, which could not be exempted from rates, were given equivalent grants amounting to Rs. 26,529.

Public Health.

240. The year was exceptionally unhealthy, and the death rate rose to 35 per mille, the highest figure recorded since 1907. Influenza was the prime factor in the increased death rate. Apart from deaths directly due to it, this disease contributed largely to the mortality from other causes, particularly respiratory diseases and bowel complaints; and it is estimated that the epidemic was responsible directly and indirectly for one-fourth of the total number of deaths. To cope with the epidemic several centres were opened for the supply of medical comforts, and special officers were added to the staff for the treatment of cases among the poorer classes. The infantile death rate showed a marked increase and was 280 per 1,000 registered deaths.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

241. The work done by the lady health visitors and midwives, though on a moderate scale, is of great educative value. They delivered 1,621 women of whom only one died; and during the first 10 days of the lives of the babies whom they visited there was a death rate of only 55 per 1,000 births which compares very favourably with the rate of 98·5 per mille for the whole city. Among older infants visited by the lady health visitors, only 34 died, giving a ratio of only 12 per mille, which is a remarkable figure considering that the general infantile mortality rate between 7 days and 3 months is 70 per mille.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.

(Report on the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust for 1918-19.)

General.

242. The Board of Trustees for the Improvement of Calcutta has now been at work for seven years, of which four were under war conditions. The war closely affected the work of the Trust. Its investments in Government securities were depreciated; engineering materials not only rose greatly in price, but were frequently almost unobtainable; the flotation of loans, on which the Trust must rely to finance some of its most costly schemes, was impossible. In spite, however, of these difficulties, the Trust has made steady progress with its important task. Large areas, which were formerly congested and insanitary slums, have now been transformed beyond recognition; and a system of main streets for Calcutta proper has been adopted and for the most part sanctioned by Government in the form of either improvement schemes or alignments.

During the year under review acquisition of land required for improvement schemes made good progress, and the value of the land acquired for the Trust was 54 lakhs—double last year's figure. Engineering work was greatly impeded, however, by the difficulty or impossibility of getting material such as cast-iron water-pipes, cement, paving slabs, etc. Uuder these circumstances the work actually completed was principally tank-filling and sewerage work.

Another result of war conditions was that building on land bought from the Trust or exempted under section 78 of the Calcutta Improvement Act was in many cases postponed. This has delayed the provision of housing accommodation to meet the increasing needs of Calcutta. At the same time there was a species of land boom, as a result of which the receipts of the Trust were largely increased. The value of the land sold by auction by the Trust during the year was nearly 33 lakhs, building sites being resold at a substantial profit, while the duty on the transfer of property yielded 8½ lakhs, or 4½ lakhs more than in 1917-18. At the time of passing of the Improvement Trust Act it was estimated that the yield from this source would be only 2 lakhs per annum, but there has been a marked rise in the receipts since 1915-16. Many persons in Calcutta made large profits from trade carried on under war conditions and consequently had large sums of money to invest; and land has been a favourite form of investment.

Improvement Schemes.

243. Government sanctioned Improvement Schemes Nos. VII-C (Maniktalla Spur), XII (Park Street widening) and XIV (Shambazar Park) during the year under review. The scheme last mentioned provided for a park extending over 53 bighas which, in combination with the fringe area scheme of the Calcutta Corporation, will provide splendid recreation grounds for the youth of Northern Calcutta.

In Barabazar, the Indian business centre and the most congested district in Central Calcutta, the opening up of wide streets and the abatement of insanitary conditions are required both on grounds of public health and in order to facilitate the operations of trade. In consultation with the Calcutta Corporation the Trust decided to frame a series of general improvement schemes for the area between Banstala Street and Harrison Road and published plans of proposed public streets covering the remainder of the area. In considering the improvement of Barabazar the Trust had necessarily to face the problem of room being found elsewhere for the business premises which would be acquired. They moved Government to consider a proposal that the Mint should be transferred from its present site, and since the end of the year the Government of India have appointed a special committee to consider the question.

In view of the rising price of land, to which reference has already been made, the urgency of developing the suburban area of Calcutta by extensive drainage schemes is increasingly apparent. In order to provide for expansion on the north of Calcutta, the Trust has prepared a drainage scheme for Maniktalla, a water-logged area for which drainage is the first necessity: in April 1919 Government authorized the execution of improvement schemes

in this area. A scheme for the creation of a garden suburb in Cossipore-Chitpur had to be held in abeyance owing to a proposal to align the Grand Trunk Canal through the area selected by the Trust for development.

The question of extending the operations of the Trust to Howrah has been the subject of prolonged discussion. Having regard to the urgent necessity of improving Howrah and preventing the growth and perpetuation on the west bank of the Hooghly of conditions which can hereafter be remedied only at enormous expense, Government is considering the introduction of legislation to enable its improvement to be taken up.

Rehousing Schemes.

244. One of the objects of the Calcutta Improvement Act is the rehousing of persons of the poorer and working classes displaced by the execution of improvement schemes, and this matter received special attention during the year under review. The Trustees have, for the present, abandoned the idea of building any more dwellings nearer the centre of the town and propose to follow what is apparently the natural tendency of the people by acquiring land in Maniktalla on which *bustees* of a superior class can be built.

Proposed public streets.

245. The execution of large street schemes involving extensive engineering works, has, for obvious reasons, to be spread over several years, while in the meantime old buildings make room for new and more costly structures. The consequent necessity of giving the Trust power (similar to that already enjoyed by the Corporation) to prevent important schemes being blocked by the erection of new buildings was soon realized after the Trust began its operations, and the Calcutta Improvement Amendment Act (III B.C. of 1915) gave it authority to lay down the lines of projected public streets and to prohibit the erection of new buildings within such lines. Seven alignments of such streets were sanctioned by Government during the year, and a scheme of alignments for the main arteries of traffic in Calcutta is now nearly complete.

One of the most ambitious projects of the Trust is for the construction of a broad thoroughfare to connect the Howrah Bridge with the centre of commercial Calcutta. The estimated net cost of the scheme is nearly 75½ lakhs, and it will be necessary to raise funds by the issue of debentures. In the meantime the alignment has been sanctioned as a projected public street in order to prevent the erection of new buildings on the road line.

District Boards.

[The Reports of Commissioners of Divisions on the working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1918-19. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

District Boards.

246. There was no change in the constitution of the Boards, except that the number of members was increased from 18 to 24 in Tippera and from 12 to 18 in Noakhali. Last year it was necessary to remind the non-official Chairmen of the District Boards of Murshidabad, the 24-Parganas and Jessore that more extended touring was necessary if the work of the Boards was to be properly carried out. It is satisfactory to note that during the year under review these Chairmen were on tour for 25, 23 and 32 days, respectively. Having regard to the advanced age of these gentlemen and their other public and professional duties these tours do them credit. The non-official Chairman of the Bakarganj District Board was on tour for 54 days, and of the Burdwan District Board for 64 days. The latter is reported to have done very good work on his tours; the District Board appears to have exercised a wise discretion in electing a gentleman who has not only time to discharge the duties of his responsible office but also determination to have work done properly.

Local Boards.

247. The elective system was introduced during the year under review in the Local Boards of the Chittagong Division and in the Local Boards of Patuakhali and Bhola in the Bakarganj district. Sanction has also been given to the establishment of Local Boards in the subdivisions of the Chittagong district, where there are at present no Local Boards, preliminary arrangements are being made for their establishment. General elections were held in five districts; they failed in seven thanas owing to the

non-attendance of the prescribed proportion of voters. In the Asansol subdivision, where the roads are under the charge of the Local Board, the entire road cess receipts from the subdivision, after deducting the cost of collection and proportionate charges for office establishment, were made over to the Local Board.

It is hoped that the Village Self-Government Act by extending the sphere of the duties of Local Boards will infuse new vitality into them and stimulate their activity.

Union Committees— (a) Constitution.

248. The number of Union Committees actually at work at the end of the year increased from 174 to 269 with a population of over two millions. In addition to these, 127 new Union Committees had been sanctioned, but had not been actually constituted before the end of the year. The elective system is being introduced in all unions where the members are nominated as their term of office expires, and the proportion of elected members has consequently been largely increased.

(b) Income.

249. The total income of Union Committees (excluding opening balances) increased from Rs. 2,00,000 to Rs. 2,39,000, of which Rs. 1,28,000 was contributed by District Boards. The number of committees imposing union rates rose from 86 to 105, of which 49 were in the Dacca district: the amount realized rose from Rs. 52,000 to Rs. 58,000. As a contrast to the Union Committees of the Dacca district, it is noticeable that in the 24-Parganas no assessment was levied by the Union Committees, which relied on grants from the District Board as their chief source of income. The latter district is regarded as advanced, and the unwillingness of the people to raise funds for the improvement of their villages is to be regretted.

(c) Expenditure.

250. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,34,000, of which Rs. 1,03,000 was spent on roads, Rs. 52,000 on sanitation and Rs. 55,000 on water-supply. Union Committees in Birbhum, Murshidabad, Jessore and Dacca devoted part of their funds to education and in Birbhum, Jessore and Dacca to dispensaries. In the 24-Parganas the tendency of the committees, if left to themselves, is to devote the greater part of their income to roads and to spend as little as possible on water-supply, sanitation, education or medical relief.

(d) Balances.

251. The number of Union Committees that disposed of the whole of their funds was 31, while 35 others were left with balances of less than Rs. 10. In two Union Committees in Birbhum the closing balances exceeded the total expenditure. One Union Committee in Dacca, which had a total income of Rs. 3,935, spent only Rs. 1,511 and is responsible for a balance of Rs. 2,424; another in Noakhali kept a balance of Rs. 2,725 out of its income of Rs. 3,677.

General remarks.

252. Although some districts seem to be making little or no progress, the Union Committees generally continued to do good work. In the Chittagong Division for instance it is reported:—"The Union Committees are gradually realizing the advantages of self-taxation and their activities, zeal and enthusiasm will go on developing with the expansion of work entrusted to them." In Faridpur these bodies are genuinely desirous of improving local conditions and are alive to the fact that self-taxation is an essential necessity. The Chairman of the Birbhum District Board writes:—"The steady increase in the number of Union Committees, all willing to impose self-taxation, has been a remarkable feature of the year of report. Some idea of their activities may be gathered from the fact that the funds administered by the Union Committees almost doubled during the year of report and that only a very small percentage of this amount (23·8 per cent.) represents the contributions made by the District Board, the remainder being their income from funds raised by themselves from self-taxation. Under the sympathetic guidance of the District Board, the Union Committees of this district continue to display a steadily increasing measure of self-help, administrative capacity and zeal for the execution of works of sanitation, conservancy, water-supply and medical relief." In Dacca the value of the work accomplished by the Union Committees is enhanced by the fact that it is done economically. The policy of the committees is to avoid the expense of contractors by delegating one of their members to engage and supervise labourers while another member is deputed to inspect the work. The

Chairman usually saves the expenses of a clerk by doing the accounts and correspondence himself. Administrative expenses thus become insignificant in comparison with the work done and in many unions they are nil. Similarly in Hooghly where different members are placed in charge of different works the people get very good value for their money.

A dislike of taxation is not peculiar to the villages of Bengal, and it is only natural that taxation should not appeal to villagers who have not yet seen the benefits that will result from their contributions. In this connection the Chairman of the Howrah District Board reports :—"As a result of my local inspections I am convinced that taxation is highly unpopular among the villagers and a committee that imposes it knowingly faces unpopularity. The villagers are anxious that Union Committees should improve amenities of life in the village, but they expect that all the necessary cost will be provided by the Board or Government. In some cases the fear of taxation leads to opposition to the establishment of Union Committees". In other districts also the committees are apt to rely on the District Board contributions, but it is scarcely necessary to point out that as Union Committees and Union Boards increase in number, till there is a network of them in each district, the amounts the Boards will be able to give to each will be so comparatively small that they must be supplemented by adequate local taxation if local needs are to be met.

District Board receipts.

253. During the year under review the total receipts from all sources (excluding opening balances) increased by over 6 lakhs, viz., from Rs. 1,10,22,000 to Rs. 1,16,57,000 : the receipts from local rates rose by 1½ lakhs, while the educational receipts rose by nearly 3½ lakhs.

Incidence of taxation.

254. The incidence of taxation averaged 2½ annas per head for the whole Presidency and varied from 3 annas 2 pies in the Burdwan Division to 1 anna 11 pies in the Dacca Division.

District Board expenditure.

255. The decrease of expenditure in relation to current income to which Government drew attention last year is still more noticeable in the year under review. Last year the expenditure exceeded the current income by less than Rs. 5,000 in contrast to the previous three years when there was an excess of by 5½, 7½ and 2½ lakhs respectively. In this year the high price of materials and the difficulty of obtaining them led to a curtailment of expenditure, the result being that the current income exceeded the expenditure by 4½ lakhs. Many districts were left with large surpluses, and the aggregate closing balance at the end of the year was 23 lakhs—an increase of 3 lakhs on the previous year.

Loans.

256. It is somewhat anomalous that whereas the municipalities with an income of 65 lakhs have taken loans totalling 69 lakhs, the aggregate of the loans of the District Boards of Bengal, with an income of over a crore of rupees, is only 20 lakhs, of which 16 lakhs is on account of the loan taken by the 24-Parganas District Board for the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme. The District Boards are constantly complaining of the inadequacy of their income, but it is their usual practice to finance capital works from current revenue. They have not apparently realised that by so doing they are not taking advantage of their strong financial position to obtain funds for the development of their districts and that they are at the same time unfairly burdening the present generation with the whole capital cost of works of which the benefit will to a large extent be reaped by posterity.

Education.

257. In spite of Government giving the Boards further grants amounting to 3⅓ lakhs, the expenditure on education rose by only Rs. 1.69,000. It aggregated 26½ lakhs, about three-fifths of which represented Government grants placed at the disposal of the Boards. The percentage of their income spent on primary education was over 20 per cent. in all but nine districts and varied from 10 per cent. in Burdwan to 30 per cent. in Noakhali and Bogra : the district last named is in advance of other districts of the Rajshahi Division in respect of both male and female education. The total number of Board and aided primary schools rose from 35,278 to 36,654, of which 28,647 were boys' schools and 8,007 girls' schools ; altogether 2,866 were maintained by the Boards.

It is satisfactory to note that there has been an increase of 592 in the number of girls' schools. The number of night schools organised in the

district of Birbhum for the education of artizans and the labouring classes rose from 113 to 144 with an attendance of 2,936 pupils. Weaving schools are being assisted by one or more District Boards in each division, while technical schools are maintained by the District Boards of Burdwan, Khulna, Mymensingh, Tippera, Rajshahi and Pabna; the District Board of Midnapore has also decided to establish one at Jhargram.

Medical Relief and Public Health.

258. These two heads are grouped together for this review as it is impossible to distinguish the expenditure under each. The outlay under the head of Medical increased by 1¾ lakh and that shown under the head of Sanitation by about half a lakh. The increases are due mainly to the establishment of new dispensaries, the temporary employment of special doctors to cope with outbreaks of influenza and other epidemics, the free distribution of medicines during diseases, the rise in the price of medicines owing to the war and the more general adoption of sanitary measures.

In nearly all districts definite programmes have been laid down for the gradual extension of dispensaries, and 15 new dispensaries were established during the year. The number would have been still greater had it not been for the high cost of materials and the difficulty of getting them. There was generally greater activity in providing for the needs, both medical and sanitary, of rural areas. In Birbhum for instance five temporary dispensaries were opened and were retained almost throughout the year, the influenza epidemic being succeeded by small-pox and cholera epidemics. The District Board of Hooghly employed five peripatetic Sub-Assistant Surgeons who visited villages and markets (*hâts*) to give free medical relief and instruct the villagers in matters of hygiene and public health. The Mymensingh District Board maintained a lady doctor and five midwives and also employed two sanitary officers for work during epidemics. In this district 11 extra doctors and 16 compounders were engaged to cope with the epidemic of influenza. In Bakarganj the services of 43 extra medical men (in addition to 30 doctors and 25 compounders attached to the Board's dispensaries) were utilized during the outbreak in October 1918. The Board opened 72 centres, each in charge of a medical man, and freely distributed medicines to the affected persons. In this district the doctors attached to some of the dispensaries visit the neighbouring village markets (*hâts*) and render medical aid to those attending them. In Rajshahi the system of treating with quinine children in primary schools suffering from malaria was extended. Medical officers of the Board's dispensaries treated school children within a radius of 1 mile from their dispensaries in addition to their dispensary work, and it was arranged that the medical officers of private dispensaries should give similar treatment in the neighbouring schools, the Board supplying the quinine. The results are said to be promising, and the experiments will be continued. Two supernumerary doctors were also deputed at Nator and Naogaon as whole-time officers to do similar work in schools within a radius of 5 miles, but this work was interrupted by the floods, as the officers had to be employed on flood duty.

In Jessore a scheme for affording medical relief by subsidizing medical practitioners is said to have worked fairly well, but it does not appear that the doctors subsidized by the Board have as yet opened dispensaries of their own, and the Chairman is not yet sure that they will eventually settle down in the locality, which was one of the main conditions on which the subsidies were granted.

Useful public health propaganda work was done in several districts. In Jessore the non-official Chairman personally delivered lectures on malaria and cholera with the help of a magiclantern. In Rajshahi one of the Board's Sub-Assistant Surgeons went on a lecturing tour for about one month. Lectures were given at zemindars' cutcherries, high English schools, *melas* and other places. It is reported that large audiences of all classes, both men and women, attended and showed the liveliest interest. Lantern-lectures given by the Sanitary Inspector of the Mymensingh District Board in villages and primary schools were much appreciated, and the Board has under consideration the appointment of two regular lecturers for the dissemination of knowledge of simple sanitary facts. Elsewhere also, *e.g.*, in Bogra and Malda, Sanitary Inspectors gave magic-lantern lectures and instructed the villagers

in the principles of hygiene and the means of protecting themselves against epidemics.

In the Asansol mining settlement the system of free and compulsory vaccination has for some time been in force under the supervision of the Mines Board of Health. It was introduced by the District Board in the remainder of the district during the year under review. A first class Health Officer was appointed by the Board for the purpose as well as for general public health work, and four Health Inspectors and 32 Sanitary Assistants were appointed to help him. In Bakarganj a scheme of free vaccination, which was in force last year in the Sadar subdivision, was extended to the Perojpur subdivision with satisfactory results, 20 per cent. of the population being vaccinated. Free vaccination was also continued in the Jalpaiguri and 24-Parganas districts and in certain parts of the Bogra and Tippera districts.

Ordinary sanitary measures, such as the clearing of jungle, filling up of ditches and disinfection of tanks and wells are generally carried out through the agency of Local Boards and Union Committees. The District Board of Dacca organized three special sanitary gangs for the Manikganj subdivision. The Local Board of Meherpur in the district of Nadia continued to clear jungle on village sites through the agency of special local committees, who took leases from the owners on small rents or free of rent and cleared the plots with the help of Local Board contributions. Crops were then grown which prevented the junglegrowing again and yielded a small profit to the committees. The idea is to form a village sanitation fund out of the sale-proceeds of the crops and to undertake other sanitary works independently of the contribution of local bodies. The scheme is said to be working successfully so far, and the number of such village committees is increasing.

Veterinary.

259. The veterinary assistants continue to do useful work, the itinerant officers visiting villages affected by its cattle disease and treating the cattle, while the stationary assistants treat in-door and out-door patients at their hospitals. The building of a veterinary hospital and dispensary at Jalpaiguri was completed during the year. An epidemic of rinderpest broke out in the Sundarbans during the cold weather. A large quantity of serum was obtained for inoculation, and the Chairman of the District Board of the 24-Parganas reports that the effect of the treatment was satisfactory and highly appreciated by the people. The Commissioner of Burdwan states that the people in his division now have a firm faith in the efficacy of inoculation.

Civil Works.

260. The expenditure on original works on buildings was approximately the same as last year, but the outlay on communications decreased by over two lakhs. In some districts the scarcity of labourers owing to the prevalence of influenza and cholera epidemics partially explains the decrease, but the main reason throughout the Presidency was the dislocation of railway goods traffic, which interfered with the transport of road metal and of coal for the manufacture of bricks. In consequence there were large lapses, the percentage of which in the province as a whole increased from 11 to 12·5 per cent. In Burdwan the amount that lapsed exceeded the expenditure.

Water-supply.

261. Expenditure on water-supply amounted to Rs. 7,83,000 or nearly one-quarter of the net public works cess receipts. The District Board of Nadia spent nearly half of those receipts, the Dacca and Faridpur Boards over two-fifths and the 24-Parganas and Mymensingh Boards one-third; the outlay in the district last named was double what it was in the previous year. The Chittagong District Board spent only Rs. 4,435, or 3·4 per cent. of the public works cess receipts. The failure to do more is attributed to difficulty in securing sites for tanks, and the District Board is considering the possibility of encouraging the use of wells in preference to tanks. In Rangpur, where only Rs. 11,000 was devoted to this purpose, it is reported that drinking water is available at a small cost by digging *katcha* wells and that the necessity for expenditure of funds on a large scale is not therefore keenly felt. It is noteworthy that, with few exceptions, District Boards are realising their responsibility in this important matter, but he has read with concern the remarks of the Chairman of the Mymensingh District Board that the efforts of the Board to supply water are resulting in a diminution of private efforts.

Drainage.

262. The expenditure incurred under this head was confined chiefly to clearing roadside drains, re-excavating and deepening *khals* and petty surface drainage. The Dinajpur Board spent a large sum in constructing new culverts and extending the waterways in bridges so as to drain off water quickly and obviate damage to crops from floods. The District Boards of Jessore, 24-Parganas and Nadia agreed to undertake with funds contributed by them and Government three large schemes under the Sanitary Drainage Act for improving the drainage of the Arool Bil and the Nawi-Sunthi and Jaboona rivers.

Closing balances.

263. In the previous three years the District Boards had been gradually reducing their large accumulated balances, but in the year under review the actual closing balances showed an increase of three lakhs. The explanation is generally that expenditure on capital works was curtailed owing to the difficulty of getting materials, the result of transport conditions, and also owing to their high cost. As in the previous year, the largest balance was retained by the Burdwan District Board: its actual amount was 5 lakhs which approximates to its total ordinary expenditure. It is explained that owing to war conditions and the ravages of influenza among labourers, one of its Local Boards (Asansol) was not able to utilize fully the public works allotment, which resulted in a saving of more than 2¼ lakhs. The disproportionately large balances at the credit of the 24-Parganas and Jessore and Nadia District Boards (viz., Rs. 3,90,000, Rs. 1,43,000 and Rs. 56,000 respectively) were mainly due to the receipt of large grants from Government on account of the Jaboona, Nawi-Sunthi and Arool Bil drainage schemes, the execution of which could not be taken up during the year. Other District Boards with a closing balance of over one lakh are Midnapore, Hooghly, Tippera and Bakarganj. No explanation has been given in the first three cases: in Bakarganj it is due to the collection of arrear cesses amounting to Rs. 34,000 and to the wrong credit to the District Board of Government land revenue amounting to Rs. 40,000. On the other hand, the Noakhali and Mymensingh Boards cleared off the accumulations of previous years; the latter retaining an actual balance of Rs. 63,000 against a current expenditure of about 9 lakhs. Bankura closed the year with a cash balance of Rs. 4,000, which represents only 2 per cent. of its current expenditure. An extreme case is that of Dacca where the year closed with an actual balance of only Rs. 1,845, which is much below the minimum working balance necessary.

Marine Department.

(1) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, 1918-19.
(2) Ditto ditto, Chittagong, 1918-19.
(3) Annual Report on Shipping Offices in Bengal, 1918-19.
(4) Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta, 1918.
(5) Ditto ditto Chittagong, 1918.
(6) Administration Report of the Agent for Government Consignments, 1918-19.
(7) Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission, 1918 19.
(8) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, 1918-19.
(9) Ditto on the Howrah Bridge, 1918-19.
(10) Ditto of the Port Commissioners, Chittagong, 1918-19.
(11) Annual Report of the Bengal Steam-Boiler Commission, 1918-19.

PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Bengal Pilot Service.

264. The total strength of the Bengal Pilot Service was 58 against the sanctioned number of 74, of whom 17 were on long leave and on deputation to military duty. There were two casualties in the service during the year: one Mate Pilot died and a Branch Pilot retired from the service.

The difficulty in the recruitment of Leadsmen Apprentices continued during the year; but the situation was carefully watched and all possible steps were taken in consultation with the various interests concerned and in frequent communication with the Government of India and the Secretary of State to secure as soon as possible a reasonable number of recruits for the service. The Secretary of State was able to send out six recruits just after the close of the year and the situation was improved considerably. Now that

the war is over, no difficulty is apprehended in the future recruitment of suitable candidates. As mentioned in the review of the previous year's report, a scheme for a system of guaranteed minimum remuneration for the Pilots was then under consideration with a view to compensate the Pilots for the decrease in their normal earnings owing to the war. This scheme was sanctioned by the Secretary of State with effect from the 1st April 1918 and is still in force. As the trade of the port improves it is likely that the normal earnings will gradually advance beyond the guaranteed minimum. To reimburse Government for the extra payment to be made to the Pilots under this scheme from the public funds, a 25 per cent. increase of the pilotage fees was sanctioned by Government as a temporary measure with effect from the 1st May 1918. The financial result of the imposition of this surcharge was carefully watched; and it was discontinued with effect from 1st December 1918. Steps were also taken to ensure that the members of the service deputed to military service occupied, on reversion to civil duty, the same place in the seniority list which they would have occupied had they not been so deputed subject to the *proviso* that they successfully passed at a subsequent date the departmental examinations prescribed by the rules.

Vessels piloted.

265. The number of vessels piloted inwards was 950 with a gross tonnage of 3,717,543 and the same number outwards with a gross tonnage of 3,685,165 against 899 and 898 with a gross tonnage of 3,441,569 and 3,420,131, respectively, in the previous year. Vessels drawing over 21 feet piloted inwards and outwards were 296 and 608 against 299 and 544, respectively, in the preceding year.

As in the previous year, only one inwardbound vessel was neaped for want of sufficient depth of water over the bars.

Seventeen vessels were detained at the Sandheads for want of Pilots against three and five in the two previous years.

Pilotage receipts.

266. The receipts from pilotage fees realised during the year amounted to Rs. 10,42,874 against Rs. 8,63,709 in the previous year. The improvement in receipts was partly due to vessels of larger tonnage visiting the port.

Casualties to vessels.

267. Twenty-seven cases of groundings occurred during the year against 12 in the previous year, resulting in the sinking of one steamer. There was one case of collision in which a brig was damaged against two in the previous year.

Courts of Enquiry.

268. Two cases of casualties only were referred to Special Courts of Enquiry against three in the previous year.

Examinations.

269. Fifty-one candidates sat for the examinations for Colonial and Home Trade Certificates of Competency as Master, Mate or Engineer of sea-going vessels, of whom 24 passed. Out of the total number of 555 candidates, 192 passed the examinations for certificates of competency as Master, Serang, Engineer and Engine-driver under the Inland Steam Vessels Act, I of 1917.

There were 145 candidates for certificate of competency as second class Master, Serang or Engine-driver of an inland steam vessel in Mesopotamian waters, of whom 98 passed.

PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

Arrivals and departures of vessels.

270. The total number of vessels that entered the port was 709, of which 142 were sea-going vessels, 462 inland steamers and 105 native sailing ships, with a total gross tonnage of 309,690 as against the total number of 600 vessels with a gross tonnage of 312,851 in the previous year. The total number of departures was 706, including 144 sea-going vessels, 460 inland steamers and 102 native craft, with a total gross tonnage of 311,288 as against the total number of 602 vessels with a gross tonnage of 313,068 in the previous year.

Casualties to vessels.

271. There were four casualties to vessels, of which three resulted in the total loss of the vessels and one was a case of fire on board.

Examinations.

272. Candidates numbering 128 appeared for the examinations for certificates of competency as Master, Serang, Engineer or Engine-driver under the Inland Steam Vessels Act, I of 1917, of whom 64 passed.

SHIPPING OFFICES, CALCUTTA AND KIDDERPORE.

Finance.

273. The receipts of the shipping offices amounted to Rs. 86,356 and the expenditure to Rs. 60,250 against Rs. 76,929 and Rs. 58,855, respectively, in the preceding year.

Seamen shipped and discharged.

274. The number of seamen shipped and discharged was :—

Articles.	1917-18	1918-19.	Increase.	Decrease.
Shipped—				
European	954	936	...	18
Indian	34,021	35,403	1,382	...
Total ...	34,975	36,339	1,382	18
Discharged—				
European	1,499	1,746	247	...
Indian	23,740	25,439	1,709	...
Total ...	25,229	27,185	1,956	...

There were 66 Anglo-Indians shipped on European and 193 on Indian articles during the year, as compared with 40 and 277 in the previous year.

Repatriation of distressed seamen.

275. The total number of seamen repatriated during the year was 84, of whom 54 were repatriated owing to illness, 14 on termination of agreement, one on account of injury, 10 under mutual consent and 5 on account of venereal disease.

CHITTAGONG SHIPPING OFFICE.

Finance.

276. The receipts of the Chittagong Shipping Office amounted to Rs. 1,957 and the expenditure to Rs. 580 against Rs. 665 and Rs. 677, respectively, in the previous year.

The number of seamen shipped and discharged during the year was 174 and 694, respectively, against 169 and 579 in the previous year.

HEALTH OF THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Inspection of vessels.

277. The number of inward and outward vessels inspected by the Health Officer was 433 and 525 against 478 and 581, respectively, in 1917.

The number of crew hands and passengers passed or rejected was :—

		Passed.	Rejected.
Outward bound vessels ...	Crew hands ...	37,183	80
	Passengers ...	10,425	17
Inward bound vessels ...	Crew hands ...	27,999	...
	Passengers ...	7,921	...

Health of seamen.

278. The number of European seamen admitted into hospitals was 534, of whom 11 died, against 264 admissions and five deaths in 1917. There were 98 cases of venereal diseases against 67 in 1917. The number of deaths at sea was nine against six in the previous year. The number of deaths among Asiatic seamen was 161 or 6·23 against 115 or 4·44 per mille in the previous year. There were 41 deaths from cholera, 16 from drowning, and 32 from accidents.

There were two cases of cholera on two sea-going ships and one case on H. MS. "Tailee"; a suspected case was reported from a sea-going vessel. In all these cases the vessels were thoroughly disinfected and fumigated and patients removed to hospitals. There was an outbreak of cholera at a jetty shed amongst the intending passengers for Rangoon. The patients

were sent to hospitals and the place was thoroughly disinfected. There were four cases of measles, two cases of enteric fever, 18 cases of beri-beri and nine cases of influenza. An epidemic of influenza broke out on board the inland vessel "Curlew". The crew were brought by launch for disinfection and the vessel claytonized.

HEALTH OF THE PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

279. There was no case of any infectious disease either on incoming or outgoing vessel or vessels lying in the port. During the influenza pandemic there were a few cases of influenza on the Port Commissioners' dredger "Karnafuli," but there was no death. **Infectious diseases.**

280. The total number of vessels inspected by the Port Health Officer was 30 against 14 in 1917. **Inspection.**

AGENCY FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIGNMENTS.

281. The total receipts of the agency were Rs. 16,69,848 and the expenditure was Rs. 15,41,556. **Finance.**

282. The tonnage dealt with was :— **Tonnage.**

Packages	...	...	1,523,505
Fire-bricks	...	...	37,794
Tons	...	...	82,225

The total value of freight bill passed by the agency was Rs. 11,47,608.

BENGAL SMOKE NUISANCES COMMISSION.

283. During the year the Commission held twelve meetings for the transaction of their business. **Meetings of the Commission.**

284. The number of observations of smoke emission taken was 9,221 against 10,044 in the previous year. The number of factories visited for the purpose of inspection of power plant, instruction of firemen and testing of fuel appliances was 3,663 against 5,375 in 1917-18. **Inspections and observations.**

The average of the observed emission of objectionable smoke in terms of scale 6 was 1·27 minutes in the hour against 1·29 minutes in the previous year. The reduction may appear small in figures, but it shows a continuous improvement on the best results of previous years, although the continuance of war conditions made it incumbent on the Commission to exercise great forbearance in enforcing the provisions of the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Act.

Plans for 47 installations were examined and approved, alterations being made where considered necessary. The remodelled plants were always found to be an improvement on the old ones and were appreciated by the owners.

The number of complaints received from the public was 48 against 53 in the previous year, and the number of reports made to owners of furnaces for departmental action was 954.

285. Statutory warnings were served and prosecutions undertaken in 23 and 18 cases, respectively, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 60 and 36. The number of prosecutions during the year is the lowest on record. This is very creditable to the Commission and may be attributed, at least in part, to the larger employment of trained firemen and the adoption of improved installations. **Prosecutions under the Act.**

Notwithstanding war conditions and the difficulty of obtaining material a fair number of electric motor and gas appliances was installed during the year with a resulting diminution in the amount of smoke emitted.

The work of the Commission since its inception in 1906 has been a record of steady and sustained progress. As the report states, the Commission is primarily advisory, not repressive; it exists for the public good and the benefit of owners. That this policy is definitely pursued is clear from the many appreciative acknowledgments received from owners and the general public.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

Income and expenditure.

286. The income of the year amounted to Rs. 1,90,58,513, including Rs. 52,06,535 realised from war surcharges. The income of the previous year was Rs. 1,58,39,175 inclusive of war surcharges amounting to Rs. 39,90,286.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,84,14,423 against Rs. 1,56,29,349.

Capital Expenditure.

287. The year under review opened with a credit balance on Capital Account of Rs. 43·84 lakhs. The total expenditure on Capital works during the year was Rs. 15,56,006 lakhs.

The principal works in progress during the year were—

(1) the river side berths at Garden Reach,

(2) the reclamation work and diversion roads in connection with the new Dock scheme ; and

(3) the Budge-Budge remodelling scheme, including bulk petrol depôt.

Capital Account.

288. The Capital debit at the end of the year was Rs. 1,027·80 lakhs, while the sum of the value of property according to block account and of the balance on capital account amounted to Rs. 1,466·53 lakhs. In addition to these assets the Commissioners have several funds forming important assets of the Trust, viz., the Reserve Fund, the Depreciation Fund and the Fire Insurance Fund.

Financial result.

289. The following table shows income and expenditure of the Calcutta Port Trust during the year 1918-19 together with the figures of the previous year :—

	1918-19.				1917-18.				Difference between nett balance of 1918-19 and 1917-18.	
	Income	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net expenditure.	Income.	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net expenditure.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Control	19,958	10,92,744	...	10,72,786	49,257	10,64,440	...	10,15,183	...	57,603
II.—Jetties	26,84,199	9,67,201	17,16,998	...	16,35,103	8,68,321	7,66,782	...	9,50,216	...
III.—Tea Warehouse ...	3,16,305	1,57,764	1,58,541	...	4,59,796	1,63,431	2,96,365	...	...	1,37,824
IV.—Petroleum Wharf ...	4,01,770	35,532	3,66,238	...	3,93,141	28,927	3,64,214	...	2,024	...
V.—Inland Vessels Wharves	4,61,425	2,09,266	2,52,159	...	4,23,309	1,88,256	2,35,053	...	17,106	...
VI.—Rentable lands and buildings.	8,84,119	1,71,879	7,12,240	...	8,25,220	1,35,690	6,89,530	...	22,710	...
VII.—Port	4,48,344	7,11,731	...	2,63,387	4,12,514	6,46,932	...	2,34,418	...	28,969
VIII.—Port approaches ...	5,01,453	10,00,535	...	4,99,082	5,21,495	8,31,481	...	3,09,986	...	1,89,096
IX.—Railway	16,86,772	13,57,540	3,29,232	...	13,47,246	12,02,577	1,44,669	...	1,84,563	...
X.—Wet Docks	40,28,752	30,22,433	10,06,319	...	36,62,894	27,78 163	8,84,731	...	1,21,588	...
XI.—Dry Docks	2,63,269	87,960	1,75,309	...	2,49,075	82,216	1-66,859	...	8,450	...
XII.—Ferry Service	4,68,692	3,68,616	1,00,076	...	4,08 777	3,17,320	95,457	...	4,619	...
XIII.—River dues	13,31,406	...	13,31,406	...	12,12,954	...	12,12,954	...	1,18,452	...
XIV.—Special War Surcharges	52,06,535	...	52,06,535	...	39,90,286	...	39,90,286	...	12,16,249	...
Sale of unserviceable materials	1,70,214	...	1,70,214	...	1,05,354	...	1,05,354	...	64,860	...
Contribution from Howrah Bridge.	25,160	...	25,160	...	22,693		22,693		2,467	...
Interest on Revenue Reserve ...	81,601	...	81,601	...	81,577	...	81,577	...	24	...
Amount payable by Capital Account to Revenue Account, haulage and maintenance of rolling stock, including establishment employed on Reclamation Works chargeable to Capital Account.	38,124	...	38,124	...	38,484	...	38,484	...	...	360
Interest and Sinking Fund Charges.	...	60,47,341	...	60,47,341	...	62,88,723	...	62,88,723	2,41,382	...
Contribution to Vessels Replacement Fund.	...	5,00,000	...	5,00,000	...	5,00,000	...	5,00,000	...	...
Depreciation of securities held in Revenue Reserve Fund.	...	...	...	...	...	1,76,590	...	1,76,590	1,76,590	...
Depreciation of securities held in Vessels Replacement Fund.	...	...	...	...	...	58,585	...	58,585	58,585	...
Depreciation of securities held in Fire Insurance Fund.	...	...	...	...	...	1,17,077	...	1,17,077	1,17,077	...
Reserve Fund for depreciation of securities of Provident Fund.	...	9,804	...	9,804	...	34,620	...	34,620	24,816	...
War Bonus to clerical and menial staff.	...	1,64,717	...	1,64,717	...	1,50,000	...	1,50,000	...	14,717
Difference on Exchange ...	40,415	...	40,415	...	...	...	...	...	40,415	...
Cancellation of bills and write-back of adjustments for previous years.	...	9,360	...	9,360	...	...	...	...	...	9,360
Appropriation to Revenue Reserve Fund.	...	25,00,000	...	25,00,000	...	...	...	...	...	25,00,000
Total	1,90,58,513	1,84,14,423	1,17,10,567	1,10,66,477	1,58,39,175	1,56,29,349	90,95,008	88,85,182	33,72,193	29,37,929

CHITTAGONG PORT TRUST.

Finance.

290. The ordinary receipts of the Port Funds during the year under review amounted to Rs. 2,28,310 (exclusive of the Government grant of Rs. 1,50,000 for the improvement of the Port) as against Rs. 1,75,561 of the preceding year. A further grant of Rs. 1,00,000 was made by this Government from Provincial revenues for the revetment work at Patenga, and a sum of Rs. 20,208 was received as an annual assignment from the Burma Coast Light Dues Fund. The total receipts of the Port Fund amounted to Rs. 4,98,518 as against Rs. 3,45,769. The increase was mainly due to the payment of arrears of contribution from the Pilotage Fund for the previous year, the lease of the residences of the Port Officer and second Harbour Master, Chittagong, to private persons, the imposition of a surcharge of 100 per cent. from the 1st March 1918 on mooring and unmooring fees, the raising of the river dues from 4 annas to Re. 1 per ton from 1st December 1918, and an improvement in the jute export trade.

The ordinary expenditure of Port Fund for the year amounted to Rs. 4,60,263 as against the actuals of Rs. 3,40,945 of the previous year. The increase in expenditure was mainly due to payment of Rs. 99,326 on account of acquisition of land for revetment work.

The net working result is a credit balance of Rs. 38,255. But for the Government subsidy of Rs. 2,50,000 the year would have closed with a deficit of Rs. 2,11,745.

Assets and Liabilities.

291. The value of the Port Commissioners' properties as estimated on the 31st March 1919 stands at Rs. 36,26,522 and the liabilities (exclusive of Rs. 4,96,914 being the outstanding balance of loans from Government for revetment work) Rs. 70,454.

Arrival of vessels.

292. The total number of ocean-going vessels, inland steamers and sailing vessels entering the port was 709 as against 600 during the previous year. The Port Officer submitted to Government his report of enquiry in two cases of shipping casualties upon which Government decided that no further enquiry was necessary.

Value of Trade.

293. The total value of foreign and coasting sea-borne trade has considerably increased and amounted to Rs. 771·76 lakhs as against Rs. 661·86 lakhs during the preceding year.

Development and future administration of the port.

294. During the year under review Sir George Buchanan presented to the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board), his valuable report on the development of the port; the report dealt with the question both from an administrative and technical point of view. The Government of India forwarded to this Government a copy of the report and particularly asked for the opinion of this Government on two points—one administrative and one financial. The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and the Port Commissioners were consulted and the opinion of this Government was communicated to the Railway Board. This Government agreed that the Assam Bengal Railway should be more strongly represented on the Port Trust Board, Chittagong, in view of the preponderating interest of that railway in the development of the port. The estimates framed by Sir George Buchanan for important engineering works, at an estimated cost of Rs. 44 lakhs in addition to the provision of one or two dredgers were accepted. An examination of the financial condition of the Port Trust proved conclusively that without material financial assistance the engineering works proposed in Sir George Buchanan's report could not be constructed. As the revetment at Gupta Point was of immediate urgency for the prevention of further deterioration at the inner bar, the port was helped during the year under review from Provincial revenues by the grant of Rs. 1 lakh in addition to the annual grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs. The Government of India were also asked for a grant of not less than Rs. 4 lakhs a year, for the years 1919-20 and 1920-21, and eventually the Imperial Government agreed to provide Rs. 4 lakhs during 1919-20 for urgent revetment work. Subsequently to the close of the year under review, the Government of India suggested to this Government the advisability of placing under the direct control of the Assam-Bengal Railway the port of Chittagong as being in fact the terminal port of that railway. This Government after some negotiation accepted the proposal of the

Government of India; and the necessary legislation to give effect to this decision is now under consideration of the Government of India.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

Revenue Account Receipts and Expenditure.

295. On the 31st March 1918 there was a deficit balance of Rs. 4,02,944 on Revenue Account.

The receipts of the bridge during the year amounted to Rs. 3,74,648 against Rs. 3,43,284 in the previous year. The total expenditure was Rs. 2,93,863 against Rs. 4,27,195 inclusive of Rs. 1,41,492 expended on renewals to the bridge structure and repairs to the ferry landing stage at Howrah in 1917. The renewals to the bridge structure were completed during the year, the total sum spent on the works up to 31st March 1919 being Rs. 2,94,332.

The increase in the income is principally due to :—

(1) the receipts from East-Indian Railway traffic,
(2) the contribution of Rs. 26,000 made by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway in consideration of their passenger traffic over the bridge, and
(3) the increased earnings of the two ferry steamers of the bridge.

There was a slight rise in ordinary expenditure during the year as compared with that of the past year under several heads.

The working result of the year was a surplus of Rs. 80,785, so that the closing debit balance on Revenue Account on the 31st March 1919 was Rs. 3,22,159.

The bridge was opened on 303 occasions, viz., 51 times during the day and 252 times at night.

The report by Mr. Basil Mott on the design of the proposed new bridge has been received and is at present under the consideration of this Government.

BENGAL STEAM BOILER COMMISSION.

Inspection of boilers.

296. The total number of boilers on the registers for Calcutta and other places within the jurisdiction of the Commissioners was 5,735 (Calcutta 2,166, mufassal 3,569), against 5,627 in the previous year. Altogether 4,818 boilers (Calcutta 1,915, mufassal 2,903) were inspected during the year. One hundred and twenty-four boilers (in Calcutta and its neighbourhood and in the mufassal) were struck off the Boiler Registers during the year under report as they had not been presented for survey for over five consecutive years or had been removed out of jurisdiction or condemned as unfit for further service. Nine hundred and nine boilers were not presented for inspection, being temporarily out of use or undergoing repairs.

Receipts and expenditure.

297. The total receipts and expenditure during the year were Rs. 1,20,166 and Rs. 81,849, respectively, as against Rs. 93,274 and Rs. 76,713 during the previous year.

New boilers.

298. Very few boilers were imported into Bengal during the year. A Stirling boiler of the largest type, probably the largest in India, was installed at the Electric Supply Station, Cossipore, and was put into service during the year. This boiler is constructed to supply a maximum of 40,000 pounds of steam per hour and is fitted with a variable grate so as to effect maximum economies at all loads.

WAR SECTION.

War section of the Marine Department.

299. As in previous years, matters connected with the war continued to be dealt with confidentially in the War Section of the Marine Department.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report on the Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, for the year 1918-19.]

Administration.

300. Mr. S. Milligan was in charge of the department throughout the year. Of the two Deputy Directors, Mr. K. McLean returned from military duty to the department early in February and Mr. F. Smith went on leave on account of ill-health at the end of January. In their absence Mr. Rajeswar Das Gupta continued to officiate as Deputy Director during the year and he has subsequently been appointed permanently to the Indian Agricultural Service and confirmed in the third post of Deputy Director which has been created. The province is still without the services of its separate Chemical Expert, Mr. Annett, who was working in the United Provinces. Mr. Finlow, the Fibre Expert, performed the duties of Agricultural Chemist in addition to his own. Mr. Hector was Economic Botanist throughout the year.

Agricultural Education.

301. The number of students from Bengal at the inter-provincial Agricultural College at Sabour rose from 17 in the previous year to 32 in the year under review. The advance in numbers is remarkable and is attributed to the stimulus afforded by the creation of a service of district agricultural officers in Bengal. The establishment of two agricultural vernacular schools, one at Dacca and the other at Chinsura, was sanctioned during the year, for the training of the sons of cultivators in improvements in purely practical agriculture. The result will be awaited with much interest. At the same time a scheme for the creation of an Agricultural Institute at Dacca, as foreshadowed by the Calcutta University Commission, is also under consideration.

Research and Experiment.

302. The *indrasail* variety of transplanted *aman* paddy, or winter rice, which the Agricultural Department discovered by a process of selection, continues to be the best in point of view of yield; it is estimated that it yields three maunds per acre more grain than the average of the local varieties it displaces. Originally the distribution of the seed of this variety had been confined to the Dacca and Mymensingh districts; but in the year under review it was extended over wider areas in Eastern and Northern Bengal, where the variety is reported to be generally suitable. Seventy-five tons of seed were distributed in 10-lb. packets. It is estimated that there will be 250,000 acres under this variety in the present season, 1919-20. Its success appears to be established. Experiments were made in the selection of the best deep-water winter varieties suitable to the low-lying areas in the east and south-east of the province. The *Kataktara* variety of *aus* paddy, or autumn rice, also discovered by a process of selection, was tested in nearly all the districts in which such rice is grown. It met with remarkable success and a large demand has arisen round centres where the seed has been distributed; for, it is not only superior in yield but also in quality to the ordinary variety of autumn rice. Another variety of autumn rice, viz., the *Surjamukhi*, which appears to have nearly the same advantages as *Kataktara* together with superior advantages in the way of straw, is under experiment. A special effort is also being made to discover an early but heavy yielder for use in the high lands of such districts as Bankura, where the crop is precarious and frequently fails in a year of short rainfall. In the Botanical section experiments are being made to obtain by a series of crosses a combination in one variety of the two qualities of earliness and high yield. Moreover, a survey of the varieties grown in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions has been started at Chinsura, with the object of selecting the best early varieties suitable to the west of the province. During the year the distribution of seed of the selected *Kakya Bomba* variety of *Capsularis* jute was extended to cultivators in Eastern and

Northern Bengal outside the Dacca and Mymensingh districts to which the distribution has previously been confined. Fifty-five tons of seed were so distributed. Approximately 25 tons in 1918 against 4 tons in 1917 was also distributed in 1 lb. packets for the muliplication of seed, but only 50 per cent. of the resulting crop was actually used for this purpose : the fibre of the remainder was sold. It is estimated that it produces two maunds per acre more jute than the average local races, and that 100,000 acres have been planted with it in the present season, 1919-20. The demand for the seed is greater than the supply, with the result that in Faridpur cultivators have been forced to grow their own seed requirements, in this way fulfilling one of the aims of the Agricultural Department. Experiments continued to be made in the selection of the best variety of *Corchorus Olitorius*, which is more suitable to Western Bengal than *Capsularis*. Tests are being made of a promising new race (Chinsura green). Investigations were continued into the "ufra" disease which attacks deep-water paddy. These confirm the general recommendations which have been made with regard to this pest, viz., the burning of the stubble of the previous crop and dealing with the low-lying area which remains wet throughout the year. But as the burning of stubble confers no benefit on the individual unless all his neighbours do it, the lines of attack developed by the department during the year were the conversion of low-lying areas into *boro* lands, and the encouragement of *rabi* cultivation and of the growth of early varieties of paddy which escape the disease. An investigation into *Chlorosis*, a disease of the jute plant, has led to the tentative conclusion that immunity of the plants to the disease is hereditary in character.

The water-hyacinth is gaining ground in this Presidency with the rapidity of rabbits in Australia. The department has been spreading amongst the cultivators information of the uses which can be made of the weed as a fertilizer, as fuel or as fodder. An apparatus has also been devised for the extraction of potash salts on the spot, but it is expensive to work. Too much emphasis cannot, however, be laid on the fact that such measures for the utilization of the weed, where they can be taken without fear of the pest being exploited or fostered for commercial gain, are only palliatives. Local bodies have therefore been advised to address themselves to the work of the complete extinction of the weed by uprooting and burning it root and branch.

The investigation of fertilizers suitable for jute ; the chemical survey of the different soils in the province ; the expansion of the new crop of groundnut in the Burdwan Division ; the improvement of the tobacco crop ; and the examination and selection of local and exotic varieties of sugarcane in respect of their suitability to Bengal conditions were amongst other activities of the Agricultural Department.

Cattle breeding. 303. Strides have been made in the work done at the Rangpur cattle farm, and it is now anticipated that the question whether the importation of outside blood is necessary or desirable for the improvement of breed will soon be answered. Until, however, this problem is solved, the Director of Agriculture rightly remarks that such operations should not be extended.

Weaving. 304. Mr. N. Pillai, the Weaving Expert, was placed on special duty to investigate the requirements of the local weavers in respect of cotton and the number of *charkas* (spinning wheels) in the province. That conditions in Bengal are not generally favourable to any marked extension of cotton cultivation is now confirmed by the opinion expressed in the report of the Indian Cotton Committee, 1919, that exotic varieties of cotton are unsuited to the climatic and other conditions of the province, and that there seems no prospect of any appreciable extension of the area under the indigenous varieties.

Farm and seed stores. 305. In pursuance of the policy of providing each district in Bengal with a farm, the establishment of three new farms was sanctioned in Mymensingh, Comilla and Bogra. It is anticipated that they will be ready for work in the forthcoming cold weather. The District Boards of Pabna and Bakarganj have also come forward with offers of co-operation in the establishment of farms in these two districts. Further, Sir Daniel Hamilton placed a farm at the disposal of the Agricultural Department at Gosaba in the 24-Parganas.

The establishment of seed stores at each district headquarters in the province was sanctioned during the year.

306 An encouraging feature of the year is the growth of small non-official thana associations of practical cultivators as a link between the Agricultural Department and the cultivators in the districts of Birbhum and Faridpur. The attitude of Government towards these associations and the functions they are expected to perform in providing this link have been described in an important Resolution No. 631 T.—R., published by this Government on the 7th June 1919. Agricultural Associations.

307. Since the close of the year a Board of the Agricultural Department, Bengal, has been established to advise on agricultural questions affecting the whole province. Provincial Board of Agriculture.

308. A remarkable feature of the year was the increase in the sale of the Government-examined seed of silkworms by 31 per cent. under the control of Babu A. C. Ghosh, coupled with the discovery that the area of land under mulberry cultivation had increased by 33 per cent. since the year 1913. These facts are both tokens of the growing popularity of the Government seed as well as of a stronger demand for Bengal silk. Cross-breeding experiments were continued both at Berhampore under Mr. P. C. Chowdhuri and in Calcutta under Miss Cleghorn. Certain results have been obtained, but it is not intended to distribute the new hybrid races until their hardiness and immunity to disease under local conditions are established. Sericulture.

Fisheries.

[Report on the Department of Fisheries, Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, for the year ending 31st March 1919.]

309. Mr. Southwell held charge of the Department as Director of Fisheries till the 24th December 1918, when he went on combined leave for 15 months leaving charge of his office to Dr. Baini Prashad, Superintendent of Fisheries. Fisheries.

During the year under review an experimental change was made in the organisation of the Department. In order to decentralize the work and to bring the Department into closer touch with organised private enterprise it was suggested that a district fishery officer should be attached to each district. An experiment was accordingly inaugurated at the end of the year by the appointment of three district fishery officers.

The investigations of the Department into the habits of fish and the experiments in breeding proceeded on the same lines as in previous years. The *hilsa* investigations as usual occupied a prominent place, but the season was unfavourable for useful work on account of the erratic nature of the monsoon. The monsoon was also responsible for a shortage of the quantity of carp fry available for distribution, but it is satisfactory to note that reports from the previous year's purchasers of fry show that the distribution has so far attained a fair result. An experiment was made in curing and preserving *bhekti* and other fish for the Calcutta market.

Twelve new Co-operative Societies of fishermen were established during the year, eight in Bengal and four in Bihar and Orissa; the total number is now 27.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for the year 1918-19; Crop Forecasts of Bengal for the year 1918-19. Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.]

310. The rainfall in March was defective, the *bhadoi* sowings in some districts being in consequence delayed. Good rainfall in April and May however enabled the full area under these crops to be sown. Subsequently, the weather proved unfavourable. The heavy rain and absence of sunshine in June affected the growth of the autumn crops and caused some Character of the season.

damage to jute and also to winter paddy seedlings on low lands. The rainfall in July was unevenly distributed, being defective throughout Western Bengal and in the greater part of Northern Bengal, but generally in excess in Eastern Bengal, causing a premature harvesting of the jute crop in low-lying lands. The rainfall in August was again very much in excess. This resulted in an early rise of the rivers and a persistent water-logging of the jute fields, especially in Eastern Bengal. A brief spell of favourable weather followed during the first half of September. Floods, however, damaged the deep-water paddy crop in Eastern Bengal and transplanted paddy in Northern Bengal. The rainfall in the latter half of the month was scanty and badly distributed. The October rains which are the mainstay of the winter rice crop were practically a total failure, the only districts receiving anything like a normal supply being Jalpaiguri, Bakarganj, Noakhali and Chittagong. A period of drought continued up till the end of the year to the detriment of the spring crops which had suffered from lack of soil-moisture from sowing time onwards. These crops, however, recovered to some extent by a moderate rainfall in January and February, which however, came too late to ensure a normal crop. The season may be thus regarded as a very bad one all round.

The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1918-19 of *bhadoi*, *aghani*, and *rabi* crops as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year :—

Name of harvest.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1917-18 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1918-19 in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the years—	
				1917-18.	1918-19.
Bhadoi ...	9,065,800	8,589,600	8,399,800	88	77
Aghani (Winter rice,	16,663,500	15,515,500	15,895,800	100	72
Sugarcane	256,200	207,400	218,900	89	77
Other sugar-producing plants.	129,500	67,000	47,200	...	...
Rabi	5,862,600	4,561,800	4,418,400	77	70
Total ...	31,977,600	28,941,300	28,980,100	...	...

***Bhadoi* crops excepting jute).**

311. Weather conditions in the beginning of the season were generally favourable, the good rainfall in April and May enabling a full area to be put down under these crops. Subsequently, however, the weather proved unfavourable, the heavy rain and absence of sunshine in June retarding growth to a considerable extent. The July rainfall was defective throughout Western Bengal. The abnormal rise of rivers during this month and excessive rain in August considerably damaged the crops in most of the eastern and northern districts, Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna, Mymensingh and the Chittagong Hill Tracts being the worst sufferers. All over the season has thus been an unfavourable one. The outturn of the different *bhadoi* crops of the province has been returned at 77 per cent. of the normal as against 88 per cent. reported last year.

Jute.

312. The weather conditions were, on the whole, favourable for the preparation of the land and seeding of the crop in the more important districts. April and May were favourable months for jute, although the rainfall in the latter month was in excess. The heavy rainfall and want of sunshine in June however retarded the growth of the crop. The rainfall in July was below normal in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, but in excess in most of the jute-growing tracts in Eastern and Northern Bengal. The August rainfall was again heavily in excess throughout the Presidency. The general result of the wet season was an almost constant water-logging of the jute fields and an early rise of the rivers, which necessitated an early harvesting

of the lower-lying areas in Eastern Bengal with a consequent cutting of much immature jute. The season in Northern Bengal was also unfavourable owing to excessive rainfall and persistent water-logging. The total outturn of the Bengal crop is returned at 6,390,934 bales of 400 lbs. each against 7,948,956 bales estimated last year, a decrease of 1,558,022 bales.

Winter rice.

313. The weather on the whole was favourable up to the middle of September in spite of heavy rainfall which caused floods in Eastern and Northern Bengal, damaging deep-water paddy in the former and transplanted paddy in the latter areas. The rainfall in the latter half of the month was, however, unsatisfactory. The October rains, which are the mainstay of the crop in Bengal, were practically a total failure, the only district receiving anything like an adequate supply being Jalpaiguri, Bakarganj, Noakhali and Chittagong. November contributed no rain of any account, and the season which opened in a promising manner finished badly. The deep-water *aman* paddy, as might be expected, suffered least; but the crop was a poor one both on high land and on land transplanted later in the season. The provincial outturn of the crop is returned at 72 per cent. against a normal yield last year.

Sugarcane.

314. The crop was planted under favourable conditions which, in spite of abnormal rain in June, continued up till July. A good deal of damage was done to the crop in Eastern Bengal by the floods in August and September. The western districts have in their turn suffered severely from the drought which prevailed since August. The season has thus not been a favourable one for sugarcane. The outturn of the province works out at 77 per cent. of the normal against 89 per cent. last year.

Rabi crops.

315. There was a general want of soil-moisture owing to early cessation of the autumn rains, the weather continuing dry up till January. The rainfall during that month, though beneficial, came too late to ensure a normal crop. The outturn of the different *rabi* crops for the province as a whole works out to 70 per cent. against 77 per cent. of last year.

Cotton.

316. The weather conditions were generally favourable at the outset. Some damage was caused to the early crop through excessive rainfall in July and August. Subsequently the late crop suffered from want of rain. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts where an early crop is chiefly grown the season has not been an unfavourable one. In the few other districts growing cotton a fair outturn was obtained. The total outturn of cotton (both early and late) exclusive of Hill Tippera was estimated at 28,713 bales this year against 15,718 bales last year.

Area under cultivation.

317. The total cropped area was returned at 28,980,100 acres against 28,941,300 acres for the previous year. Figures for the principal crops are given in the following table :—

Name of crops	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1917-18 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1918-19 in acres.
Rice	22,091,500	20,961,800	21,332,100
Other food-grains, including *marua* and pulses.	2,277,500	1,721,700	1,613,300
Jute	2,643,800	2,376,200	2,219,200
Oilseeds	1,951,900	1,558,300	1,523,400
Tobacco	411,800	292,100	335,900
Sugarcane	256,200	207,400	218,900

Prices.

318. The general tendency in India at the beginning of the year 1918-19 was towards low prices, and accumulation of stocks of the raw staples and food-stuffs which India produces. This was largely because of the lack of shipping. The latter exhibited its effect both directly in that there were no ships to export the produce to foreign countries, and indirectly, because as there were no ships to carry coal to Western India, the railways had to be utilized for the purpose. To such an extent indeed was it necessary to do this, that the transport on a large scale, by rail, of other commodities became practically an impossibility. Later on in the year conditions however began

to change, and the large rise in prices which had taken place in Europe began to have a sympathetic effect on the prices of food-stuffs in India. In Europe the production of necessaries had been curtailed owing to the necessity of production of munitions of war and at the same time there had been a considerable inflation of currency. Both these causes naturally led to a large increase in the price of food-stuffs. These are the world-wide causes at the root of the recent rise in prices. Apart from these world-wide causes, the chief all-India cause of the rise in food prices in India was a disastrously uneven distribution of the monsoon of 1918 over practically to the whole of India. Over the greater part of the Indian Continent the rainfall was so seriously deficient as to produce famine or scarcity on a wide scale in other provinces; but in North-East India, from June to September, the reverse was the case and some crops, notably jute, suffered from excessive rain.

As far as Bengal is concerned, the extraordinarily early cessation of the monsoon in September determined the position; for the rice crop which, up to this point, promised extremely well, was damaged to such an extent as to produce, on an area decidedly larger than that of the previous year 1917-18, about 1,500,000 tons less grain.

Despite therefore that during the previous year (1917-18) Bengal had accumulated considerable stocks of rice, the bad season of 1918-19 was a local reason for the increase in prices. On the other hand, despite the fact that Bengal had to export large quantities of rice to other parts of India which were worse off than itself and where the population was practically starving, there was no shortage. Prices were, however, largely divorced from the heights of world-wide prices owing to the restrictions on exports to foreign countries. It has also to be remembered that Bengal has been less severely affected than some other provinces, and that the rise of prices in Bengal has throughout been slower than in other parts of India. By the end of the year the price of rice was very high but had not then reached the abnormal heights it subsequently attained. The prices of winter rice (common) at the time of harvest ranged from Rs. 4¼ per maund at Rangpur to Rs. 6¼ per maund at Hooghly and that of autumn rice from Rs. 3½ per maund at Rangpur to Rs. 5½ per maund at Dacca. The prices of jute varied from about Rs. 5 to Rs. 13½ per maund.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1918-19. Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial.]

Development.

319. The following table shows the chief features of the progress of the co-operative movement during the year :—

	Societies.		Membership.		Working Capital.	
	Last year.	This year.	Last year.	This year.	Last year.	This year.
					Rs.	Rs.
Provincial Bank (Federation) ...	1	1	31	57	14,77,995	19,63,069
Central Banks	52	58	7,401	7,833	67,52,191	82,60,976
Agricultural Societies ...	3,374	3,923	125,590	134,755	80,50,717	92,35,397
Non-agricultural Societies ...	203	262	29,689	36,091	30,49,121	36,20,714
Unions	13	12	275	271	...	...
Total ...	3,643	4,256	162,986	179,007	1,93,30,024	2,30,80,156

Provincial Bank.

320. The progress of the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Federation, Limited, which was opened in the previous year, surpassed expectation. By the 30th June 1919, 49 Central Banks and 8 other societies had joined it. The Federation received Rs. 10¾ lakhs of the idle funds of its members for investments and made repayments to the extent of Rs. 8 lakhs; and it saved one central bank from disaster during the year under review. Of the Rs. 13 lakhs of deposits taken over from central banks at a high rate of interest it repaid nearly Rs. 4 lakhs.

321. The number of central banks increased from 52 to 58, their working capital from Rs. 67½ lakhs to Rs. 82½ lakhs and their paid-up share capital from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 11¾ lakhs. At present only 14 of these banks have appointed paid secretaries or assistant secretaries. The number of unions decreased from 13 to 12 in the year under review; but they are reported to be neither successful nor popular in Bengal. **Central Banks.**

322. The number of agricultural societies has increased to 3,923 from 2,857 and 3,374 at the close of 1916-17 and 1917-18, respectively. During the year the membership increased from 125,590 to 134,755 and the working capital from Rs. 80½ lakhs to Rs. 92¼ lakhs. Repayments during the year were good. The amount of loans overdue to agricultural societies was reduced by Rs. 6 lakhs and their reserve funds were increased from Rs. 9¾ to Rs. 14½ lakhs. Much good work was done by the Department during the year in the direction of purification of societies. Large and unwieldy societies were split up and a few bad societies were nursed and tended. Some of the incurably bad societies were, however, liquidated. The Sundarbans Supply and Sale Society at Khepupara has made good progress, and the Khelar Irrigation Society has again had a prosperous and successful year. By irrigating fields it yielded four or five times as much rice per bigha as the adjoining lands which were affected by drought. The Naogaon Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society, Limited, has successfully ousted the *ganja* brokers. During the year it realised a profit of Rs. 3 lakhs. **Agricultural Societies.**

323. The number of non-agricultural societies has risen from 203 to 262 and the number of members from 29,689 to 36,091. The working capital has also increased from Rs. 30½ lakhs to Rs. 36¼ lakhs. The number of weaving societies has increased from 65 to 101 and that of fishermen's societies from 25 to 28, but the latter were still merely credit societies. Towards the end of last year the organisation of the Bankura Industrial Co-operative Union was effected. At the beginning of the year the prospects of the Union were blank owing to the fluctuations in the price of yarn and of piece-goods, but two good orders, which were received about Christmas time, were so well executed that they put the Union on its feet. At the end of the year the Central Co-operative Anti-malaria Society was organised with the object of propagating the formation of primary anti-malaria societies in the mufassal and to assist them when formed. Most of the milk societies in the neighbourhood of Calcutta have formed a union to facilitate business in Calcutta; the daily supply of milk was ¾ of a ton. **Non-agricultural Societies.**

324. The Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society has attracted to itself representative men from the land-owning, mercantile and professional classes and has completed a year of useful propaganda. The circulation of the Bengal and Bihar and Orissa Co-operative Journal, which it took over, has increased, whilst its Bengali equivalent, the "Bhandar," is much appreciated by an increasing circle of readers. Three pamphlets were published by the society during the year and arrangements were made for a course of public lectures on co-operation. As a result of a University conference held under its auspices a committee was appointed for propaganda in the University and colleges. **Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society.**

The officers of the Co-operative and Agricultural Departments continue to work together and to co-ordinate the activities of the two Departments where possible. The numerous agricultural associations formed throughout the province are in many instances associated with Co-operative Societies and their members.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling for the year 1918-19.]

325. During the year the weather conditions were somewhat trying to the garden, heavy bursts of rain alternating with prolonged spells of hot dry weather. From October 1918 to the end of March 1919, very little rain fell, so that many plants suffered from the drought. The display of annuals in the flower garden, although rather late owing to the weather conditions, was above the average. Three new vistas were opened out. Portions of certain existing avenues were taken up and re-made. Over 200 young trees **Royal Botanic Garden, General.**

and shrubs were planted out. A fair number of economic species were also planted in the economic garden.

Plants and seeds distribution.

326. Over 36,000 young trees and shrubs were distributed and over 500 plants were received. Over 400 packages of seed were distributed over a wide range. A very large quantity went to new Delhi and to Mesopotamia. Nearly 400 packets of seeds were received, exclusive of 1 \ bags of *Phœnix rupicola* seed from Mr. R. S. Lister of Pasok Tea Estate in the Darjeeling district.

Herbarium and Library.

327. Work was carried out along the usual lines throughout the year. Over 6,000 specimens were added to the herbarium. Among Indian contributions the most interesting were nearly 200 excellently prepared specimens collected in the Tavoy district of Burma. The usual additions were made to the library.

Publication.

328. The letterpress of Part II of Volume XII of the Annals of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, issued from the Press during the year.

Calcutta gardens.

329. Work in these gardens was mostly of a routine character. A few flowering trees have been added to all three gardens.

Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling.

330. This garden was kept up to the standard of past years. Over 170 species new to the garden were planted out during the year. Nearly 5,000 plants, over 45,000 seedlings, about 470 bulbs and tubers and over 7,000 packets of seed were distributed.

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1918-19.]

Plantations.

331. The total area under a full complement of cinchona on the Mungpoo and Munsong plantations was 2,600 acres, as compared with 2,514 acres in 1917-18. The approximate number of cinchona trees was 3,7\0,000, being about 910,000 on Mungpoo and 2,790,000 on Munsong. During the year the total bark harvest was 822,779 lbs. as compared with 618,703 lbs. in the preceding year. The cultural conditions of both plantations were satisfactory.

Outturn.

332. The total quantity of bark worked up in the Quinine Factory was 766,163 lbs. against 654,093 lbs. in 1917-18, and the quantity of quinine sulphate produced amounted to 32,640·25 lbs., against 29,417·5 lbs. in the previous year. In addition 103 lbs. of other quinine salts, 11·25 lbs. of cinchonidine sulphate, 46·5 lbs. of quinoidine and 11,439·75 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge were manufactured. The factory also turned out 1,633 lbs. of quinine sulphate from bark purchased in Java. The Provincial quinine reserve has been increased from 63,248 lbs. 12 oz. at the end of 1917-18 to 94,653 lbs. at the close of 1918-19. The value of stock of all sorts on the 31st March 1919 was Rs. 20,58,715, of which Rs. 18,93,060 is represented by quinine.

Forests.

[Forest Administration Report for the year 1918-19. Statistics of British India, Part IV (5)—Finance and Revenue.]

Administration.

333. There was only a small change in the area of the reserved forests under the Forest Department due to the inclusion of several areas aggregating 4 square miles in the Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Buxa Forest Divisions and the recomputation of the area of the Sitapahar Reserve. The area is now returned as 4,888 square miles. Settlement work in respect of the 4 square miles mentioned above was completed during the year; small progress was made in the work of demarcation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Forest Division. No new working-plans were sanctioned during the year.

Communications and buildings.

334. One mile of cart road and 7 miles of bridle path and 12 miles of inspection footpaths were constructed during the year. The total expenditure on communications amounted to Rs. 18,757 against Rs. 15,904 and on buildings to Rs. 33,550 against Rs. 25,311 in the previous year.

The important buildings constructed during the year were a *bathan* in the Darjeeling Division, Range quarters at Sivoke and Tukriajhar in the Kurseong Division, new quarters for the Range Officer at Madarihat in the

Jalpaiguri Division, and a toll-station and quarters at Dhobicherri in the Chittagong Division.

335. There was a considerable increase in the total number of forest offences reported during the year, the number being 3,694 as compared with 2,780 in the previous year. The average of the past three years was 2,591. **Forest offences.**

336. The area in which fire protection was attempted during the year increased from 367,854 to 396,606 acres, and the percentage of successful protection was 93·7. The cost per square mile actually protected was Rs. 7-9-9 against Rs. 8-1 in the previous year. The area burnt over amounted to 24,876 against 7,566 acres in the preceding year. This heavy increase is mainly due to two large fires in the Haldibari and North Borojhar ranges, and is attributed to the unusually dry character of the hot weather. In 28 out of 55 cases the cause of the fire was undetected. **Protection from fires.**

337. There was no change in the area open to grazing, which covers 4,747 square miles. The number of cattle impounded during the year was 7,021 against 4,720 in the preceding year and 4,578, the average of the last three years. This increase is attributed to the prolonged drought in the hot weather and the consequent scarcity of fodder. **Protection from cattle.**

338. No change was introduced into the system of disposing of minor produce. There was a large increase in the outturn of bamboos and of thatching materials, but a fall occurred in the revenues derived from grazing and from royalties for the lease of elephant mahals. Thirty-four elephants were caught, of which seven died. The amount of timber cut or collected by Government agency rose from 353,508 cubic feet in the preceding year to 644,887 in the year under review. **Exploitation.**

Industrial investigation and commercial activity were two noteworthy features of the year under review. Mr. H. S. Gibson, Deputy Conservator of Forests, was placed on special duty under the Director of Industries to enquire into the industrial possibilities of the forests of Bengal. Mr. J. C. Carroll, Deputy Conservator of Forests, was deputed as Forest Utilization Officer to carry out further investigations. Mr. J. A. Pilgrim, L.T.C., was also deputed during the year to investigate tannin materials in the Sundarbans.

A lease of 120 square miles in the Buxa forests was given to Messrs. Davenport & Co. for the extraction of all trees other than *sâl* by duly controlled fellings for the manufacture of tea chests and three-ply wood.

339. The number of persons reported to have been killed by tigers in the Sundarbans during the year was only 5 as against 14 in the previous year and 51, the average of the last five years. Thirty-five tigers, including three cubs, were killed as against 46 in the preceding year. **Mortality caused by wild animals.**

340. Observations on the spread of the *sâl* root fungus were continued during the year. **General.**

341. During the year under review the total revenue increased from Rs. 15,01,670 to Rs. 19,55,394, by over 4½ lakhs, due mainly to departmental working in connection with the production of munitions. At the same time the expenditure increased by only a little over half a lakh from Rs. 7,71,124 to Rs. 8,33,634. The surplus amounted to Rs. 11,21,760 against Rs. 7,30,546 in the previous year. **Financial results.**

Manufactures and Mines.

[Statistics of British India, Part I— Industries.]

342. Owing to a comparatively low price obtained for last year's (1917) crop and a large carry over, the area under jute decreased from 2,376,247 acres with an estimated outturn of 7,853,956 bales to 2,219,212 acres yielding 6,348,829 bales in the year 1918. Seventy-two jute mills were at work during the year employing on an average 266,664 operatives daily, an increase of 3,897 over the number employed during the previous year. The number of looms and spindles working in jute mills was 38,951 and 815,479, respectively, as against 40,271 and 825,795 in 1917. The authorized capital employed, rupee and sterling, was Rs. 11,45,46,000 and £2,138,358. **Jute.**

343. Fourteen cotton mills worked employing daily on an average 11,177 men, as against 10,989 men in 1917. The number of looms and spindles **Cotton.**

was 2,336 and 371,333 as compared with 2,330 and 373,991, respectively, in last year. The authorized capital employed was Rs. 1,35,00,000. None of the companies was incorporated in England.

Tea. 344. The area under tea in 1918 was 169,100 acres against 167,700 in 1917, the quantity of tea manufactured being returned at 89,983,561 lbs. as compared with 88,308,662 lbs. in the previous year. There were 305 plantations employing, on an average, 105,365 permanent and 27,443 temporary hands daily.

Coal. 345. The number of coal mines worked continued to increase, being 200 during the year against 190 in 1917-18, while the total output rose to 5,302,295 tons, or a little over 6½ lakhs of tons more than in the previous year. The daily average number of persons employed both above and below ground also increased to 46,149 from 38,585 in the preceding year. The increase in the number of labourers was apparently due to the bad harvest in the previous year and the prevalence of scarcity in the adjoining districts.

Iron ore. 346. No iron ore was raised during the year 1918-19. The Bengal Iron and Steel Company, Kulti, received their supply of iron ore from Bihar and Orissa.

Salt and Saltpetre. 347. The quantity of refined saltpetre produced during the year was 11,701 maunds against 16,989 maunds in the previous year. The decrease was partly due to the bad management of the Sulkea Refinery by the proprietors and partly to a decrease in the demand for saltpetre. The quantity of salt educed in the process of refinements of saltpetre was 547 maunds as compared with 942 maunds in 1917-18.

Paper. 348. There were three paper mills at work during the year 1918-19, employing 4,457 persons daily. These mills produced 24,103 tons of paper valued at Rs. 1,78,69,817 during the year 1918-19.

Silk. 349. There were 10 silk mills and some smaller establishments which gave employment to 3,916 and 10,185 people respectively. About 15,537 kahons (19,887,360) of disease-free seed cocoons were distributed from Government nurseries.

Sugar. 350. The acreage under sugar-crops fell from 274,400 in 1917-18 to 266,100 in 1918-19. The Cossipur Sugar Works, which is the only regular sugar factory in the Province, employed on an average 764 persons daily. Besides this, there were four small sugar concerns in the 24-Parganas and five in Calcutta which gave employment to about 166 people daily.

Wool. 351. Two woollen mills were at work during the year 1918-19, employing 348 persons daily. The number of looms and spindles was 28 and 1,448 respectively. These mills produced 706,455 lbs. of blankets valued roughly at Rs. 7,58,922. One of these factories is Government owned and the other a private concern.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN EACH DIVISION.

[Land Revenue Administration Report of Bengal for the year 1918-19.]

Burdwan. 352. The coal mines and factories in the Asansol Subdivision in Burdwan and factories and mills in Hooghly and Howrah had an exceptionally busy year and gave employment to a large number of labourers. The minor industries, such as cotton-weaving in Burdwan, Midnapore and Hooghly, manufacture of silk and *tasar* cloth in Bankura, Midnapore and Birbhum and the brass and bell-metal manufactures in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura, Midnapore and Hooghly did not prosper on account of high prices of raw materials and the restrictions on railway traffic due to the war. Great progress was made in Birbhum in agricultural development during the year under report, and coal was discovered in a large area in the south-western part of that district.

Presidency. 353. In the Presidency Division economic development has been affected in many ways by the war. In Nadia the number of co-operative credit societies rose from 195 in 1917-18 to 207 during the year. In Murshidabad there was a marked improvement in cottage industry in the production of blankets owing to the large orders and quick purchase by the Bengal Home Industries Association, Calcutta. In Jessore the Jessore-Jhenida Railway

generally encouraged local trade and the sugar industry was benefited by restrictions on the supply of foreign sugar.

Dacca.

354. In the Dacca Division the local weavers were unable to take advantage of the rise in the prices of cloth, owing to the scarcity and dearness of suitable yarn. A start has been made to revive the tanning industry in Dacca, and a co-operative society of leather-workers has been organized.

Chittagong.

355. Trade in general suffered greatly in the Chittagong Division, owing to the scarcity of steamers. Ship-building in Chittagong continued during the year. Six sailing vessels were built and registered, the registered tonnage varying from 173 to 612 tons. The tanning factories of the Indo-Burma Petroleum Company, Limited, and the Burma Oil Company, Limited, the Shalimar Works of Messrs. Turner, Morrison & Co. and the cotton-ginning mill were at work during the year. The exceptionally high price of imported cotton piece-goods enabled the local weavers to continue their trade on the same level as in the preceding year, but their profits were limited owing to the high price of imported yarn. In Chittagong a weaving school has recently been started at Zorarganj within the Sadar Subdivision. The weaving school at Cox's Bazar has not proved successful. In Tippera, jute-baling—the most important and prosperous industry in the district—was dull on account of the war. The *hooka*-making industry was prosperous. The oil mill at Chandpur supplied oil to various places in Eastern Bengal. The export of fish from Ashuganj continued, as also did the manufacture of buttons from mother-of-pearl and cocoanut shells, and cane and bamboo baskets, etc., at Brahmanbaria. In Noakhali the usual export of betelnut and jute flourished, but the mat industry in Feni and the export of poultry and eggs decreased owing to difficulties of transport.

Rajshahi.

356. The most important and organized industry in the Rajshahi Division is tea, which is confined to Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling. In the former district the outturn was not satisfactory owing to unfavourable weather, while in the latter the industry was on the whole prosperous. The outturn of the *ganja* crop in the Naogaon Subdivision of the Rajshahi District was less than in the previous year, but as the manufacture is now conducted under the auspices of the Ganja Cultivators Co-operative Society, the cultivators made a large profit, a great proportion of which would, under the old system, have gone to the pockets of the middlemen. The silk industry, owing principally to the higher prices prevailing for the raw material, has continued to show an improvement. But in Rajshahi it was in a moribund state, and the sericultural nursery at Gandagram near the Bogra town was abolished as a losing concern. In Darjeeling some experiments were undertaken by the Agricultural Department with a view to introducing mulberry cultivation in the hills. The brass metal industry in Malda was, as in the previous year, almost at a standstill for want of raw material. The basket-making industry in that district suffered through partial failure of mango crop and the Mango-Canning Company could not do much business for want of tin. The rice mills in Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Bogra and Darjeeling did well during the year. The co-operative movement continued to do useful work.

Working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911).

[Annual Report on the above mentioned Act for the year 1918. Statistics of British India, Part I.—Industries.]

Number of factories and system of work.

357. The total number of factories at the close of the year 1918 was 570, including 52 new factories brought under the operation of the Act, against 522 in 1917. The daily average number of operatives employed during the year was 439,961 as compared with 410,769 in the previous year. In 85 factories work was carried on by means of shifts and in 210 with stoppages after intervals of six hours; 85 factories were exempted under part C, Schedule I of the Act, and in 178 factories other arrangements were in force. Twelve factories remained closed throughout the year.

Inspection.

358. Seventy-four factories were inspected once, 41 twice, and 82 three times. Three hundred and thirty-nine factories were not inspected at all, owing to the inspecting staff being largely employed on special work connected

with munitions, but all urgent matters connected with the administration of the Factories Act received the special attention of the Inspectors.

Sanitary and housing arrangements, water-supply, etc.

359 Progress continued to be made in the betterment of conditions in factories. The construction of several septic tank latrines was started during the year, but progress was retarded owing to the difficulty in obtaining materials. These installations will probably be completed and brought into use during the current year, and there will then be very few large textile concerns in which the insanitary hand service system will be found. The water-supply was generally satisfactory. All the larger factories have plants of their own, while some of the more up-to-date mills provide their workers with excellent bathing facilities in the shape of *pucca* tanks. There was practically no additional accommodation provided for housing operatives during the year under report. Several mills, however, took advantage of prosperous times and replaced *kutcha* houses by *pucca* ones with general improvements. including better drainage, etc.

General health of operatives.

360. With the exception of the influenza epidemic which broke out in Calcutta in July 1918 and rapidly spreading among the operatives of factories, caused a temporary shortage of labour, there was no other sickness in an epidemic form, and the health of the operatives in the three provinces was on the whole fairly good.

Wages and general condition.

361. During the year under review there was an all-round increase of 10 per cent. as "War Bonus" in the wages paid to the operatives of textile factories, necessitated by the increased cost of living, The general condition of the operatives was satisfactory.

Employment of women and children.

362. The number of women and children employed in jute and cotton mills during the year increased by about 3,500. In all, 21,414 children were certified by the various certifying surgeons of factories under section 7 of the Act, the number certified by the whole-time Certifying Surgeon of Factories, Barrackpore, being 10,116. During the year a few cases of irregular employment of women and children, mostly in jute mills, were detected; and prosecutions were instituted in two cases.

Accidents and fencing of machinery.

363. There was a further decrease in the number of accidents during the year, which fell from 1,551 in 1917 to 1,418 in 1918, notwithstanding the fact that the number of operatives increased by about 29,000. Additional fencing of machinery could not be undertaken owing to the high cost and difficulty of procuring materials.

Prosecution.

364. Three prosecutions were instituted in Bengal, all resulting in convictions.

Fire.

365. There were two cases of serious fires in jute concerns causing damage estimated at a lakh of rupees in one, and considerable damage to the building and machinery in the batching and preparing departments of the other.

Strikes.

366. There were seven temporary strikes: four in jute mills, two in cotton mills and one in a woollen mill. Two of these were due to the Muhammadan disturbance in Calcutta, three were for increase of wages, one arose from the introduction of a system of giving loans to operatives when out of employment to be recovered when re-employed. The cause of one strike, which lasted for 12 days, is unknown.

Sunday labour.

367. A few anonymous complaints were received, mainly with regard to the working of factories on Sundays and after legal hours. Surprise visits were made and action taken, where necessary.

Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1918-19. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India with the British Empire and Foreign countries. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. Statistics of British India, Volume I—Commercial Statistics. Review of the Trade in India, 1918-19.]

I.—FOREIGN-SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1918-19.]

Foreign Trade.

368. In the year under review, the aggregate value of the trade of the Bengal Presidency, both foreign and coasting, increased from Rs. 171·04 crores to Rs. 206·85 crores, which is little short of the highest pre-war figure.

The value of the foreign trade increased by Rs. 28·46 crores, or 19 per cent., to Rs. 178·97 crores, and that of the coasting trade by Rs. 7·35 crores, or 36 per cent. to Rs. 27·88 crores, of which 78 per cent. was conducted with Burma. The foreign import trade rose in value by Rs. 9·8 crores, or 16 per cent., to Rs. 72·17 crores, and the export trade by Rs. 18·68 crores, or 21 per cent., to Rs. 106·8 crores. During the year of report the shortage of tonnage, consequential rise in freights, and higher prices continued. Calcutta absorbed 96 per cent. of the total trade of Bengal, the remainder consisting chiefly of tea and raw jute being credited to Chittagong and its subordinate ports.

The following table shows the extent to which the foreign trade in merchandise (private) of the province is centred in the chief port of Calcutta :—

	Province. (In thousands.)	Calcutta. (In thousands.)	Chittagong and its sub-ports. (In thousands.)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports ...	64,04,35	63,62,75	42,30
Exports ...	1,05,71,82	1,02,36,30	3,35,52

Treasure.

369. The imports of silver on private and Government account were Rs. 39·51 lakhs as against Rs. 8·21 lakhs in 1917-18. The details relating to the movements of gold during the period have, on account of the extraordinary circumstances arising out of the war, been excluded.

Imports of Merchandise.

Principal articles imported into Calcutta.

370. The following table shows the comparative importance of the staple articles in the import trade of Calcutta :—

—	Average value for the 5 years, 1911-12 to 1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	Percentage of proportion to total imports of merchandise.	Difference between 1917-18 and 1918-19. Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Cotton goods	25 38,75,941	23,20,49,993	25,27,08,926	23,47,15,010	36·89	...	1,79,93,916
2. Metals and ores	6,59,11,721	4,47,40,973	4,71,69,144	8,50,10,237	13·36	3,78,41,093	...
3. Sugar	3,90,22,327	6,60,95,047	7,14,93,818	7,44,99,783	11·71	27,05,965	...
4. Machinery and millwork	2,25,08,604	2,46,36,366	1,95,59,381	2,15,50,233	3·39	19,90,852	...
5. Oils	1,93,40,193	2,06,44,111	1,59,95,544	1,98,56,474	3·12	38,60,930	...
6. Salt	74,35,073	1,34,71,639	1,87,57,829	1,87,92,285	2·95	34,456	...
7. Hardware, excluding cutlery and electroplated-ware	1,13,29,226	1,17,83,981	1,11,03,376	1,37,46,448	2·16	26,43,022	...
8. Liquors, including methylated and perfumed spirits.	62,44,946	71,50,271	75,94,343	1,19,29,506	1·88	43,35,163	...
9. Chemicals and chemical preparations.	43,61,496	67,70,043	98,33,800	1,09,35,277	1·72	11,01,477	...
10. Spices	69,93,628	74,18,657	70,26,045	93,36,948	1·47	23,10,903	...
11. Instruments, apparatus and appliances.	60,01,548	74,33,874	66,04,407	90,06,748	1·42	24,02,341	...
12. Paper and pasteboard ...	41,11,576	63,55,603	72,55,041	84,09,551	1·32	11,54,510	...
13. Tea-chests, entire or in sections.	43,14,290	75,37,322	84,66,384	82,86,811	1·30	...	1,79,573
14. Copra or cocoanut kernel	1,835	3,72,967	19,41,708	78,79,071	1·24	59,37,363	...
15. Provisions and oilman's stores.	61,94,289	71,49,461	58,60,656	75,42,206	1·19	16,81,550	...
16. Tobacco	26,51,705	42,20,708	53,17,831	73,89,431	1·16	20,71,600	...
17. Articles imported by post	29,76,994	44,32,604	45,59,764	69,23,085	1·09	23,63,321	...
18. Paints and painters' materials	30,67,467	37,35,670	40,47,964	60,96,705	·96	20,48,741	...
19. Rubber	21,05,157	40,82,993	48,24,458	48,90,153	·77	65,695	...
20. Matches	30,21,768	35,48,686	61,12,097	48,73,176	·76	...	12,38,921
21. Building and engineering materials.	34,00,128	35,03,897	53,39,231	47,45,640	75	...	5,93,591
22. Drugs and medicines (excluding chemicals and narcotics).	40,64,722	50,40,322	41,63,334	45,77,610	·72	4,14,276	...
23. Railway plant and rolling-stock.	2,57,57,143	43,43,607	21,73,201	42,87,100	·67	21,13,899	...
24. Glass and glassware ...	49,05,747	57,26,708	56,20,747	42,74,082	·67	...	13,46,665
25. Wood and timber ...	18,41,830	23,86,188	18,54,191	29,08,749	·46	10,54,558	...
26. Haberdashery and millinery.	32,19,482	31,82,000	24,26,298	26,45,741	·42	2,19,443	...
27. Belting for machinery ...	9,99,989	12,66,718	20,95,883	26,24,340	·41	5,27,457	...
28. Hemp	5,74,109	13,80,755	13,79,220	24,02,857	·38	10,23,637	...
29. Woollen goods	65,15,547	37,05,789	32,34,212	23,32,021	·37	...	9,02,191
30. Apparel (excluding hosiery and boots and shoes).	21,34,456	19,61,684	15,31,438	19,34,323	·30	4,02,885	...
31. Soap	15,94,205	19,62,180	19,71,397	19,26,105	·30	...	45,292

Cotton manufactures.

371. The year was a most eventful one in the cotton trade. In England the shortage of raw cotton, due to lack of tonnage and to unfavourable crop reports from America, necessitated the constitution early in the year of a Cotton Control Board which regulated the number of spindles and looms running. Restricted production forced prices up. In India the depletion of stocks of piece-goods imported at comparatively low prices was naturally followed by a steady advance in market rates; this was aggravated during the second quarter of the year under review by the entry into the trade of a

large number of speculators who did not fail to observe that local market rates still lagged far behind the ever-soaring replacement cost, and that the withholding of fresh orders foreshadowed a great scarcity in future supplies. Prices rose to a point which occasioned very considerable popular discontent, and by August and September necessitated the intervention of Government. In Bengal a notification was issued empowering the Local Government to license dealers in piece-goods with the object of eliminating undue speculation in the trade, and for India generally, legislative action was taken to regulate the price of cloth manufactured in this country and, in particular, to establish the manufacture of a standard cloth. The efficacy of these measures of State interference was happily not put to the severest test, for the armistice was followed by something like a panic in the Calcutta market and rates fell by the end of the year.

The decline in piece-goods from 766 million yards to 512 million yards was shared by all kinds, but was heaviest proportionately in the case of white and coloured fabrics. In *grey* goods, there was a decrease of 148 million yards from the United Kingdom, though this was partly set-off by a notable advance of 49 million yards from Japan. White and coloured piece-goods both fell to less than half the previous year's yardage.

Twist and yarn showed a decided recovery in total figures although the United Kingdom sent less than half as much as last year, Japan taking 78 per cent. of the trade as against 23 per cent. last year. High prices led to a considerable drop in imports of other manufactures, particularly of hosiery from Japan, the value of which fell from Rs. 72 lakhs to Rs. 42 lakhs.

Metals and ores. 372. There was some recovery in the volume of imports under this head from 75,753 tons last year to 107,457 tons in 1918-19, yet this figure is less than one-third of the average quantity imported in the five years ending 1915-16; on the other hand, the total value was actually in excess of the average total value for the same five years by Rs. 191 lakhs, or 29 per cent., and nearly double the value for 1917-18. Of the total quantity imported of wrought iron and steel, the United Kingdom contributed 32 per cent., the United States of America 53 per cent., and Japan 12 per cent.; in value the United Kingdom's percentage was lower because most of the imports from that country was supplied under priority at controlled rates. Other metals also showed increased imports with the exception of quicksilver and wrought brass; the defect in the latter item was more than compensated for by the increase of unwrought brass, copper and zinc.

Sugar. 373. The imports of refined sugar showed an increase of 27,000 tons over last year's figures. The increase was mainly due to larger imports from Java and Mauritius. The supplies from Java being plentiful, imports from Japan practically ceased, whilst China and Egypt contributed nothing. The imports from Java increased by 10 per cent. from 4·6 million cwts. to million cwt. due mainly to favourable prices ruling in Java and also to an improved freight position. The largest imports arrived in December and February, each contributing one-seventh of the year's total: demand fell off heavily towards the close of the year, owing to a sharp rise in value which might be attributed to the cessation of hostilities and the consequent competition of European-buying markets. The average market price of Java refined sugar was Rs. 13-15-2 per cwt. and of Mauritius sugar Rs. 15-15-1, as against Rs. 14-15-7 and Rs. 18-9 per cwt., respectively, in the previous year. There were no imports of unrefined sugar, and molasses dropped from 744,878 cwts. to 372,873 cwts.

Machinery and Millwork. 374. The total value of imports of machinery and millwork, excluding railway materials, increased by 10 per cent. from Rs. 195·59 lakhs to Rs. 215·50 lakhs, a noticeable feature being the increase of America's contribution from Rs. 50 to Rs. 80 lakhs. Boilers as well as oil-crushing, workshop and foundry, and wool machinery showed a great advance, while there was a falling off under jute mill machinery. Sewing and knitting machines were also less.

Mineral oil. 375. The total imports of mineral oil from foreign countries and Burma increased from 82·1 million gallons to 87·5 million gallons, or by 6 per cent. in quantity and by 26 per cent. in value, from Rs. 4·1 crores to Rs. 5·2 crores. The imports of kerosene oil from America decreased from 8·3 million gallons to 3·7 million gallons, due to the requisitioning of oil-carrying steamers for war purposes, but the deficiency was made good by supplies from Burma which were

the largest on record. Values were relatively high, especially in the case of American oil. Internal transport difficulties led to periods of acute scarcity in various places. The imports of lubricating and batching oils from foreign countries rose from 11·5 million gallons to 15·6 million gallons, the principal sources being the United States of America (64 per cent.) and Borneo (31 per cent.). Foreign supplies of petrol were not forthcoming, and shipments from Burma declined from 1·7 million gallons to 1·1 million gallons; several times during the year, motor traffic was seriously interrupted for lack of fuel.

Salt.

376. The total imports of salt during the year were 344,763 tons, or nearly 94 lakhs of maunds. The most noticeable feature was the increase in imports from Port Said which supplied 45 per cent. of the whole. This was due to the fact that freight was more easily obtainable from there than from other salt-producing countries. Imports from the United Kingdom, though showing a big recovery from the previous year's figures, amounted to less than 10 per cent. of the whole, as against an average of 31 per cent. in the five years before the war. Spanish salt showed a further decrease, owing to lack of freight. Stocks at the *golas* were maintained at a higher level than in the previous year, reaching 14 lakhs of maunds in August and September but falling to 5 lakhs in January. Larger imports brought a drop in prices, and the Government maximum price was fixed at Rs. 188 to Rs. 179 according to quality in February 1919, as against Rs. 248 to Rs. 239. At the close of the year prices stood at a level considerably below this reduced maximum.

Hardware and Cutlery.

377. The imports increased from 117·11 lakhs in 1917-18 to Rs. 144·07 lakhs by 23 per cent. of the total imports, Great Britain supplied 41 per cent., the United States of America 35 per cent. and Japan 20 per cent.

Liquors.

378. The total imports of liquors increased from 1·08 million gallons to 1·40 million gallons, or 30 per cent. and in value by 57 per cent. from Rs. 75·94 lakhs to Rs. 119·30 lakhs. Imports of beer from the United Kingdom declined in value owing to restricted brewing. Arrivals from Japan increased by 63 per cent. in spite of advanced prices, that country supplying two-thirds of the total imports. Beer of good quality was imported from America and Australia in increased quantities. Supplies of brandy from the United Kingdom and France were more freely obtainable, the latter country sending 82 per cent. of the whole. Imports of whisky declined by 10,000 gallons. Imports of gin recovered to a normal level, owing to the removal of restrictions in England and to the arrival of some supplies from the United States of America. Heavy shipments of Java rum amounting to 341,861 liquid gallons, of which exactly half was methylated, arrived during the year. In the case of wines, the increase was confined mainly to Spanish wines, supplies from other markets having actually undergone a further decline, especially Port from the United Kingdom and Vermouth from France.

Exports of Merchandise.

Foreign trade.

379. The following table shows the values of the staple articles of the export trade of Calcutta and their comparative importance :—

—	Average for the 5 years, 1911-12 to 1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	Percentage of proportion to total merchandise exported.	Difference between 1917-18 and 1918-19.	
						Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
1. Jute manufactures ...	26,11,43,370	41,49,73,870	42,68,57,646	52,49,51,503	51·64	9,80,93,857	...
2. Tea	10,87,53,241	11,66,26,560	13,13,86,546	11,85,14,504	11·66	...	1,28,72,042
3. Jute, raw	19,84,31,701	15,35,86,740	6,24,47,258	11,84,48,474	11·65	5,60,01,216	...
4. Hides and skins, raw ...	7,11,55,234	6,80,64,288	3,48,03,066	3,91,70,877	3·85	43,67,811	...
5. Seeds	4,05,56,120	1,85,52,787	96,93,046	3,21,67,354	3·16	2,24,69,308	...
6. Grain, pulse and flour ...	6,71,22,497	1,52,51,577	1,92,16,034	3,20,98,235	3·16	1,28,82,201	...
7. Opium	3,53,15,907	2,09,65,180	2,40,77,345	3,12,90,745	3·08	72,13,400	...
8. Lac	1,84,84,190	2,79,86,546	3,74,54,008	2,84,60,126	2·80	...	89,93,882
9. Oils	26,12,670	25,19,991	57,84,473	1,34,74,319	1·33	76,89,846	...
10. Metals and ores	49,23,058	1,19,45,446	76,87,579	1,05,63,083	1·04	28,75,504	...
11. Mica	30,84,283	24,63,689	78,22 994	79,85,755	·79	1,62.761	...
12. Saltpetre	39 13,823	64,91,092	64,62,174	76,15,029	·75	11,52,855	...
13. Indigo	44,70,903	99,62,988	94,80,865	74,24,938	·73	...	20,55,927
14. Cotton, raw	1,24,47,913	1,03,95,449	82,97,355	71,43,594	·70	...	11,53,761
15. Hemp, raw ...	47,14,920	69,71.095	25,00,642	56,67,781	·56	31,67,139	...
16. Articles (not specified) exported by post.	7,91,778	21,50,038	26,60,876	35,51,224	·35	8,90,348	...
17. Dyeing and tanning substances—other than Indigo.	24,78,801	29,28,252	25,69,617	32,00,595	·31	6,30,978	...
18. Tobacco	3,82,180	17,11,424	6,19,007	27,62,069	·27	21,43,062	...
19. Manures	26,09,042	23,36,881	23,23,359	27,16,356	·27	3,92,997	...
20. Provisions and oilman's stores.	23,48,780	22,29.545	23,10,167	20,98,744	·21	...	2,11,423

The total export trade exhibited an increase in value of 24 per cent. over the previous year, and of 17 per cent. over the average for the five years ending 1915-16, but this advance was largely, if not entirely, discounted by the general rise in prices.

The more important exports are specially noticed in the following paragraphs :—

Raw jute and jute manufactures.

380. During the year under review, the salient characteristics of the jute trade, which represented 63 per cent. of Calcutta's whole export trade, were, firstly, conditions arising from natural causes, a defective crop with a great scarcity of jute of good quality ; and, secondly, results of the cessation of hostilities, the stoppage of war bag work and the removal of restrictions on exports. On the whole, the year was one of unexampled prosperity, despite a great rise in the price of the raw material and unsettled conditions of business in the later months. The total quantities exported were greater than in the previous year by 7 per cent. and the values by 31 per cent.

Raw jute showed an improvement of 39 per cent. in number of bales and of 90 per cent. in value ; on the other hand, bags and cloth were less by 16 per cent. in quantity, though owing to much higher prices the aggregate value rose by 22 per cent. Bags and cloth for the use of the British Government represented 13 per cent. of the total exports of manufactured goods—last year the corresponding figure was 17 per cent. Other manufactures of jute, consisting chiefly of rope, twine and twist and yarn, showed an astonishing advance in total value, though much of this was due to the rise of prices. Rupees 8·08 lakhs were paid to the Calcutta Improvement Trust from the jute cess collections, as compared with Rs. 7·4 lakhs in 1917-18. The main feature of the trade in raw jute was a considerable increase in the quantity exported, which amounted to 375,856 tons, against 271,250 tons in the preceding year. The value of the exports increased by 90 per cent. to Rs. 11,84·48 lakhs in the year under review ; the exports to the United Kingdom amounted to 201,920 tons as against 60,918 tons in the previous year. The United States occupied the next place with 61,140 tons against 94,171 tons last year. Spain and Japan took less, while Italy and Brazil imported greater quantities than last year. The total outturn as given in the final forecast was 7 million bales, or nearly two million bales less than that of the preceding year. The mill consumption for the year was estimated at 5·82 million bales against 5·30 millions in 1917-18.

The War Office shipments of gunny bags and cloth were made up of 221 million bags and 269 million yards of cloth. Of the bags, 132 millions only went to the United Kingdom and 74½ millions to Egypt ; 7½ millions were consigned to Italy, and 7 millions to the Argentine for bagging wheat purchased by the Royal Wheat Commission. Of the cloth, 113½ million yards went to the United Kingdom, 80½ million yards to the Argentine, and 66 million yards to France, which took practically no bags. It was in exports on purely private account that the big advance in values manifests itself. If the War Office shipments are deducted, the remaining exports of gunny bags amounted to 359·57 millions in number, with a value of Rs. 19·6 crores. The shipments of cloth on private account amounted to 833·57 million yards, with a value of Rs. 25·55 crores, averaging 4·9 annas a yard as against 3·25 annas in the previous year. The local mills worked at full pressure so long as the war continued, and made profits that were without precedent even in previous war years. The end of the war and the consequent rapid reduction in the volume of Government work led to a changed state of affairs. Full time ceased on the 9th November ; from then till the end of the year the mills worked only 4 or 5 days per week.

Tea.

381. The total quantity of tea exported decreased by 54 million lbs. or 19 per cent. to 225 million lbs., and the value decreased by 10 per cent. to Rs. 11·85 crores, the average declared price for the year being distinctly better. The exports from Calcutta to the United Kingdom were less by 6 million lbs., or 3 per cent. than those in 1917-18 ; those from Chittagong were 54·75 million lbs. so that the combined exports from Northern India were 256·61 million lbs. From British India, as a whole, the total exports were 282·20 million lbs. Exports to other countries were on an unprecedentedly small scale, only reaching a total of 24 million lbs.; the total for 1917-18

was 72 million lbs. and the average for the five years ending 1915-16, 63 million lbs. There was a complete cessation of exports to Russia, and China, which imports Indian tea for re-export to Russia, also took less.

The direct shipments to Canada and the United States of America decreased to 3 million lbs., from 36 million lbs. in 1917-18. Exports to Africa, after a remarkable spurt to 10 million lbs. in 1917-18, fell to the normal figure of 2·60 million lbs. Shipments to Australia showed a decline of 20 per cent. and those to Persian Gulf ports and Jeddah were also on a low scale owing to freight difficulties. Last year's exceptional exports of waste tea were not maintained this year. During the year the average price realised in Calcutta at the auction sales was 8 annas 1 pie, or 11 pies better than the average obtained for 1917-18.

Raw hides and skins.

382. The restrictions on export of hides and skins, which were in force at the close of the previous year, were unchanged until the middle of September 1918, when cow hides were more strictly controlled. From the latter part of January 1919 the export of raw and tanned goat skins, as also of raw buffalo hides and finished leather, was permitted to all countries except those which lie under a general embargo. Despite these relaxations in the later months, the whole year's figures improved by only one per cent. in quantity and 13 per cent. in value. Raw hides showed an actual decrease of half a million in number and half a crore of rupees in value. On the other hand, there was an expansion in the figures for raw skins of 26 per cent. in quantity and 53 per cent. in value. Of the raw hides Italy took 38 per cent., the United Kingdom 43 per cent. and the United States of America 18 per cent. Of the raw skins, the United States took 89 per cent., shipments during the later months being conspicuously large, owing to the removal of import restrictions in that country. Dressed hides and skins are not of great account in Calcutta's export trade, but they rose in value to Rs. 1⅓ lakhs, a figure never before attained.

Seeds.

383. The year's trade in oil-seeds was of special interest. The total quantity exported amounted to 2,902,021 cwts., valued at Rs. 322 lakhs, against 1,174,312 cwts., valued at Rs. 97 lakhs, in the preceding year. As a result of the energetic buying on the part of the British Ministry, the total volume of the trade by weight was greater than in the previous year by 146 per cent. The quantity of linseed exported during the year was 2,505,498 cwts., of which 72 per cent. went to the United Kingdom, 15 per cent. to Australia, and 7 per cent. to the United States of America. Exports of rape seed were 41 per cent. less than in the previous year, but still 80 per cent. above the five yearly average, Japan being again the best customer. Castor seed is not at Calcutta a trade of much importance, and shipments were low in comparison with any of the earlier years except 1917-18. Two thousand four hundred and sixty-seven tons of groundnuts and 781 tons of poppy seed were exported during the year.

Grain, pulse and flour.

384. The exports of food-grains and pulses from Calcutta are generally made up from the crops of two seasons. The two seasons covered by the year's trade were very different in character, that of 1917-18 having been good, while that of 1918-19 in many parts of India a disastrous failure. But the export trade was more seriously affected by freight difficulties than by any question of supplies during the last two years of the war; and the release of more shipping in 1918-19 led to an increase in exports of 66 per cent. in quantity and 67 per cent. in value, though the total was still much below the average of earlier years. The increase was practically confined to rice; as in the previous year, there was hardly any export of barley or maize; the exports of other cereals remained on the same level. Pulses which include lentils, peas, gram, etc., dropped considerably by 19 per cent. Imports from foreign countries of food-grains were insignificant, only 3,400 cwts. Exports of wheat in 1918-19 were mainly governed by the yield of 1917-18 which was satisfactory, but exports were closely restricted throughout the year by the Wheat Commissioner. The apparent striking expansion of Calcutta's modest share of this trade was really due to the fact that wheat shipped by firms on Government account was accounted for under private trade. The quantity of wheat so shipped in the year was 24,953 tons, valued at Rs. 36 lakhs.

Opium.

385. The private trade in opium showed a recovery, the number of chests having risen by 24 per cent. and the value by 30 per cent. The figures are, however, much below the average of the quinquennium ending 1915-16. Most of this increase in private trade was set off by a reduction of Government shipments, mainly to the Straits, from 5,194 to 4,411 chests. The improvement in the private trade was caused by increased exports to Java, Cochin-China and Japan, the quantitative advances being 33 per cent., 13 per cent. and 99 per cent., respectively. Mauritius increased her takings from 15 to 42 chests and British Borneo from 20 to 130 chests.

Lac.

386. Exports of lac were smaller than in any other year since 1901-02, the quantity showing a fall of 28 per cent. as against 1917-18, and the value, of 24 per cent. As usual, button lac and shellac constituted the bulk of the trade, absorbing 95 per cent. The United Kingdom took 31 per cent. of the total exports, with an increase of 13,271 cwts.; shipments to the United States of America decreased by 54 per cent., but those to Japan and France improved by 35 and 118 per cent., respectively. Prices of T. N. quality in Calcutta, which ranged between Rs. 80 and Rs. 100 during April to December 1918, came down with the new year to Rs. 73 in March 1919. The principal cause of the fall was the cessation of the demand for munition work owing to the armistice.

Oils (vegetable).

387. The war time conditions did much to encourage the local oil-pressing industry, partly because of the high level of freight and the consequent economy effected by shipping oil instead of seed, and partly because of a temporary activity in the production of coconut oil pressed from Ceylon copra. Exports of coconut oil, which until 1917-18 were almost negligible, rose to nearly 2½ million gallons, constituting more than half the total exports of oils. Practically all the coconut oil went to the United Kingdom for the Ministry of Food. The next most important item was linseed oil with shipments incomparably greater than in earlier years; of 1,231,668 gallons, of which 422,417 gallons went to Australasia, 260,228 gallons to Italy, and 108,233 gallons to Natal. Shipments of castor oil, on the other hand, were below the level of previous year.

Metals and ores.

388. The total value of metals and ores exported increased from Rs. 77 lakhs to Rs. 106 lakhs, or by 87 per cent. Shipments of manganese ore increased from 178,323 tons to 204,935 tons or by 15 per cent. The United Kingdom took 68 per cent., France 20 per cent., Japan 6 per cent., and smaller quantities were sent to Belgium, the United States and Italy. Exports of pig iron again decreased considerably from 49,744 tons to 9,596 tons, or by 81 per cent. in quantity, and by 65 per cent. to Rs. 10½ lakhs in value, Japan taking almost the whole amount. The production of iron and steel at the two premier iron works, viz. :—the Tata and Bengal Iron and Steel Works, were 198,064 tons in 1918 as against 167,868 tons of pig iron in 1917 in the former, an increase of 18 per cent., and 49,348 tons as against 80,252 tons in the latter. Other metals increased in value from Re. 1 lakh to Rs. 3 lakhs, and in quantity from 50 to 163 tons, or by 226 per cent., due mainly to exports of brass manufactures, this being a new industrial enterprise established during the year.

Mica.

389. Owing to its excellent insulating properties, Indian mica was in considerable demand for munition purposes. Throughout the year exports to all destinations except the United Kingdom were absolutely prohibited. Shipments were on a smaller scale than in 1917-18, the quantity falling from 55,946 cwts. to 46,446 cwts., or by 17 per cent., but the value rose by 2 per cent. from Rs. 78 lakhs to Rs. 80 lakhs.

Saltpetre.

390. The quantity exported was the highest on record since 1908-09, showing an increase from 16,332 tons to 19,672 tons, or by 20 per cent. Exportation was confined to the United Kingdom until the 4th January 1919, when all restrictions were removed. The United Kingdom took 12,389 tons, or 12 per cent. less than that in the previous year.

Indigo.

391. The year was unfavourable owing to a deficiency of moisture, and the dye-outturn fell by 50 per cent. The exports decreased from 18,519 cwts. to 18,040 cwts., or by 3 per cent. in quantity, but owing to lower prices, the value decreased 22 per cent., from Rs. 95 lakhs to Rs. 74 lakhs. Japan increased her share of the exports, advancing to the second place in the list,

but the United Kingdom and the United States of America took less. Prices were generally lower, but showed a tendency to increase towards the close of the year. The price of Bihar indigo varied from Rs. 127-8 per maund in October 1918 to Rs. 572-8 in March 1919, the price in the local auction sales.

392. The following table shows how the trade of Calcutta with foreign countries was distributed in the stated periods (in lakh of rupees) :— **Distribution of the import and export trade of Calcutta.**

	IMPORTS.						EXPORTS.					
	AVERAGE FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1911-12 TO 1915-16.		1917-18.		1918-19.		AVERAGE FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1911-12 TO 1915-16.		1917-18.		1918-19.	
	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent.
United Kingdom	4,120	70·6	3,332	57·5	2,883	45·3	2,577	29·5	1,966	23·8	2,718	26·6
British Possessions.	235	4·0	374	6·4	549	8·6	1,382	15·8	1,640	19·8	1,911	18·6
Java ...	547	9·4	719	12·4	740	11 6	123	1·4	181	2·2	243	2·4
United States ...	188	3·2	512	8·8	828	13·0	1,587	18·1	2,637	31·9	2,909	28·4
Japan ...	149	2·6	604	10·4	1,139	17·9	172	2·0	251	3·0	343	3·4
Italy ...	44	·8	43	·7	11	·2	253	2·9	177	2·1	201	2·0
France ...	33	·6	22	·4	34	·5	308	3·5	284	3·4	437	4·3
Russia ...	4	...	13	·2	...	...	241	2·7	72	·9	...	...
South America	...	...	4	...	...	...	398	4·4	398	4·8	682	6·7
Total (including other countries).	5,838	100	5,798	100	6,362	100	8,748	100	8,269	100	10,236	100

The total trade between Calcutta and the United Kingdom increased from Rs. 53 crores to Rs. 56 crores, but the increase was confined to the exports from Calcutta. Imports from the United Kingdom declined by 4½ crores, bringing down her share of the import trade from 57 per cent. of Calcutta's total imports to 45 per cent. The reduction is most marked in the case of cotton goods, the figure for which fell from Rs. 23 crores to Rs. 18 crores, though, even so, it represented 76 per cent. of the total imports of such goods from all countries; less important reductions were recorded for many other commodities, the principal exceptions being iron and steel, liquors and railway materials. On the export side Great Britain occupied the second place, her share being 21·6 per cent. as against America's 28·4 per cent. Increases of over one crore of rupees were recorded in the figures for raw jute and linseed, while tea, hemp, lac, and hides also advanced, the only important heading in which there was a decline being jute manufactures, which fell by Rs. 137 lakhs. Australia improved her position both on the import and export sides, in the former case from ·41 per cent. to 1·02 per cent. Egypt and Mauritius also improved their share of the import trade by sending more salt and sugar respectively. Imports from Italy declined, mainly in coloured cotton goods and rubber tyres, while with regard to exports raw jute showed an increase and cow hides a decrease. The trade with Russia was practically eliminated. Imports from France exhibited an improvement; there was a considerable increase in shipments of raw jute to France. Trade with the United States of America exhibited the most striking development during the year. In imports the United States improved her share to 13 per cent., the advance being almost entirely accounted for by greatly increased supplies of iron and steel. The United States also once again took first place among Calcutta's customers. Though the percentage of the trade contracted from 31·8 to 28·4 per cent., the actual value was in excess of what was registered in the previous year, greatly increased purchases of jute manufactures and goat skins more than counter-balancing reductions in various other commodities, especially lac and tea. Despite the increased shipments of sugar from Java,

that country was displaced from her position as second only to the United Kingdom amongst the suppliers of Calcutta's imports, by Japan, which came little short of doubling the value of her consignments, the most important advances being recorded in cotton manufactures, metals and tea chests.

II.—FRONTIER TRADE.

[Report on the Frontier Trade of Bengal for 1918-19.]

Total Trade.

393. The total value of the trade with the adjacent States of Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet in the year ending 31st March 1919 was the highest on record, and amounted to Rs. 153 lakhs as against Rs. 147 lakhs in 1917-18, an increase of 4 per cent. The above figures exclude the movements of treasure, the registration of which was as usual somewhat defective.

Imports into Bengal.

394. Of the total value of the imports into Bengal (Rs. 120 lakhs), 37 per cent. came from Nepal, 33 per cent. from Tibet, 27 per cent. from Sikkim and the balance, 3 per cent., from Bhutan. The principal articles of import into Bengal were :—from Nepal animals living (Rs. 24·85 lakhs), fruits, vegetables and nuts (Rs. 15·86 lakhs), and provisions, chiefly ghee (Rs. 2·35 lakhs) ; from Tibet, raw wool, which constitutes the main staple of import (79·208 maunds, valued at Rs. 29·28 lakhs), skins of sheep, goats and other small animals (Rs. 5·60 lakhs), animals living, chiefly horses, ponies and mules (Rs. 2·45 lakhs), and yak's tails (Rs. 85,000) ; from Sikkim, fruits, vegetables and nuts (Rs. 15·01 lakhs), animals living (Rs. 5·88 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 4·50 lakhs), spices (Rs. 4·18 lakhs), and provisions (Rs. 2·04 lakhs) ; and from Bhutan, animals living (Rs. 1·76 lakhs).

Exports from Bengal.

395. Of the total exports (Rs. 33 lakhs), 45 per cent. went to Tibet, 37 per cent. to Sikkim, 12 per cent. to Nepal and 6 per cent. to Bhutan. The exports from Bengal to Tibet consisted mainly of cotton piece-goods (Rs. 3·66 lakhs), metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 2·30 lakhs), woollen piece-goods (Rs 1·64 lakhs) and silk manufactures (Rs. 1·47 lakhs) ; to Sikkim, cotton manufactures (Rs. 3·07 lakhs), provisions (Rs. 2 lakhs), grains and pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 1·44 lakhs), and metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 57,000); and to Nepal, cotton manufactures (Rs. 2·29 lakhs) and salt (Rs. 42,000). The principal commodities exported to Bhutan were cotton piece-goods, valued at Rs. 33,000, and betelnuts, Rs. 30,000.

III.—COASTING TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1918-19.]

Coasting trade.

396. The total value of the coasting trade of Bengal, including Government stores, showed a big improvement of Rs. 7·35 crores from Rs. 20·53 crores to Rs. 27·88 crores, 78 per cent. of the trade being with Burma. Imports of private merchandise increased by 22 per cent. from Rs. 11·59 crores to Rs. 14·16 crores, and exports from Rs. 8·04 crores to Rs. 11·47 crores, or by 43 per cent. The chief items which contributed to the increase in imports in Calcutta were rice, petroleum, teak, raw cotton, and stick lac from Burma, and cotton goods, twist and yarn and raw cotton from Bombay. The value of imports from Madras fell from Rs. 1·42 lakhs to Rs. ·84 lakhs, receipts of groundnuts from that province dropping from Rs. 88 lakhs to Rs. 27 lakhs, and of sugar from Rs. 9 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs, while the imports of spices, turmeric, and salt were also lower. The increase in exports was chiefly due to larger shipments of jute manufactures, wheat flour, pulse and wheat, Indian cotton twist and yarn, ghee, betelnuts, and foreign cotton manufactures to Burma, and rice to Madras and Bombay. Burma again secured the lion's share increasing her total trade from Rs. 13·81 crores to Rs. 18·06 crores, an increase of 33 per cent. Madras came second with Rs. 1·92 crores against Rs. 1·64 crores, while Bombay showed a remarkable recovery from Rs. 1·21 lakhs. The total values for Bihar and Orissa, Bengal (Chittagong) and non-British Indian ports were Rs. 33 lakhs, Rs. 17 lakhs and Rs. 8 lakhs, against Rs. 25 lakhs, Rs. 14 lakhs and Rs. 4 lakhs, respectively ; the trade with Sind alone declined from Rs. 62,219 to Rs. 8,294 only.

IV.—TRADE BY RAILWAY AND RIVER.

[Report on the Trade carried by Railway and River in Bengal during 1918-19.]

Rail and river-borne trade.

397. The quantity and value of the inland trade of Bengal are exhibited in the following table :—

	1913-14 (pre-war year).		1917-18.		1918-19.	
	Mds. (1,000).	Rs. (1,000).	Mds. (1,000).	Rs. (1,000).	Mds. (1,000).	Rs. (1,000).
Imports into Bengal, including Calcutta, from other provinces.	196,102	58,28,18	157,189	83,63,69	151,715	86,59,21
Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal.	135,852	59,28,04	92,328	58,54,16	108,689	82,57,31
Exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to other provinces.	66,138	49,72,48	98,974	73,18,36	119,960	94,58,49
Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal.	41,519	40,26,96	33,681	41,67,48	29,941	46,23,81

The total imports into Bengal, including Calcutta, were valued at Rs. 86 crores, of which 41 per cent. came from Bihar and Orissa, 18 per cent. from Assam, 16 per cent. from the United Provinces, 10 per cent. from Bombay, 6 per cent. from Madras, 4 per cent. from the Punjab, 3 per cent. from the Central Provinces and Berar and the balance 2 per cent. from other provinces. Of the total exports (Rs. 94 crores), 26 per cent. went to Bihar and Orissa, 19 per cent. to the United Provinces, 17 per cent. to the Bombay Presidency, 12 per cent. to the Punjab, 10 per cent. to Assam, 6 per cent. to Madras, 3 per cent. to the Central Provinces, and the remainder to other provinces.

Imports by rail and river into Bengal.

398. The principal articles of import into Bengal, including Calcutta, were from Bihar and Orissa, railway materials (Rs. 12 crores), coal and coke (Rs. 3·5 crores), iron and steel (Rs. 3·2 crores), oilseeds (Rs. 2·9 crores), grain and pulse (Rs. 2·7 crores), hides and skins (Rs. 1·3 crores), jute (Rs. 1·3 crores) and lac (Rs. 1·2 crores); from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, opium (Rs. 3 crores), grain and pulse, chiefly wheat (Rs. 2·1 crores), oilseeds (Rs. 1·6 crores), hides and skins (Rs. 1·5 crores), lac (Rs. 83 lakhs), ghee (Rs. 69 lakhs), and saltpetre (Rs. 67 lakhs); from Assam, tea (Rs. 9·6 crores), jute (Rs. 86 lakhs), oils, chiefly kerosene (Rs. 79 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 78 lakhs), hides and skins (Rs. 76 lakhs) and timber (Rs. 66 lakhs); from the Bombay Presidency, cotton manufactures (Rs. 5·3 crores), oilseeds (Rs. 58 lakhs), cotton raw (Rs. 34 lakhs) and wool manufactures (Rs. 25 lakhs); from the Madras Presidency, cotton manufactures (Rs. 1·7 crores), spices (Rs. 97 lakhs), oilseeds, chiefly groundnuts (Rs. 61 lakhs), and oils (Rs. 45 lakhs); from the Punjab, oilseeds (Rs. 1·5 crores), hides and skins (Rs. 75 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 30 lakhs); and from the Central Provinces, raw cotton (Rs. 94 lakhs) and metallic ores (Rs. 46 lakhs).

Exports by rail and river from Bengal.

399. The exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to Bihar and Orissa, consisted mainly of cotton manufactures (Rs. 8·8 crores), metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 3·3 crores), grain and pulse (Rs. 2·4 crores), railway materials (Rs. 1·9 crores), oils (Rs. 1·3 crores), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 95 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 76 lakhs), timber (Rs. 74 lakhs), salt (Rs. 64 lakhs) and spices (Rs. 53 lakhs); to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, cotton manufactures (Rs. 5·4 crores), grain and pulse (Rs. 2·7 crores), metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 1·9 crores), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 1·3 crores), sugar (Rs. 1·1 crore), oils (Rs. 88 lakhs), coal and coke (Rs. 36 lakhs) and spices (Rs. 36 lakhs); to the Bombay Presidency, grain and pulse (Rs. 2·8 crores), iron and steel (Rs. 2·7 crores), coal and coke (Rs. 2·5 crores), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 2·2 crores), tea, Indian (Rs. 1·2 crores), timber (Rs. 88

lakhs) cotton manufactures (Rs. 64 lakhs) and sugar (Rs. 55 lakhs); to the Punjab, cotton manufactures (Rs. 2·7 crores), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 2·3 crores), sugar (Rs. 2·2 crores), iron and steel (Rs. 1·2 crores) and grain and pulse (Rs. 79 lakhs); to Assam, cotton manufactures (Rs. 3·1 crores), iron and steel (Rs. 1·4 crores), wood manufactures (Rs. 45 lakhs) and salt (Rs. 34 lakhs); and to the Central Provinces, gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 52 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 47 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 40 lakhs), coal and coke (Rs. 33 lakhs), cotton manufactures (Rs. 29 lakhs) and kerosene oil (Rs. 29 lakhs).

PUBLIC WORKS.

Establishment.

Retention of appointment of Chief Engineer.

400. On the expiry at the end of March 1919 of the present term of appointment of Mr. G. Connell, Chief Engineer and Dredging Master, who also held charge of the waterways subdivision, a recommendation was made to the Government of India to retain his services in order to secure to Government the benefit of his extensive experience in inland waterways and their conservancy as well as in dredging machinery. The Government of India accepted the proposals of this Government.

Retention of services of Consulting Architect.

401. His Majesty's Secretary of State for India sanctioned the retention of the services of Mr. H. A. Crouch, Consulting Architect to this Government, on a salary of Rs. 1,500—50—1,750 per mensem and on his reaching the maximum salary of Rs. 1,750 per mensem on the 17th July 1919, it was decided that his services should be retained on that salary subject to termination of service at any time on six months' notice being given by either party.

Duty allowance of two Under-Secretaries raised.

402. In exercise of the powers delegated to Local Governments by the Government of India, the duty allowance of two Under-Secretaries to this Government in the Public Works Department was raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per mensem from 1st November 1918.

Retention of appointment of second Chief Engineer.

403. In June 1918 His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, on the recommendation of the Government of India, sanctioned the retention of the appointment of second Chief Engineer for a further period of three years from the 1st September 1918.

Powers to create temporary divisions.

404. Temporary Divisions have hitherto been formed under the sanction of the Local Governments. It was pointed out by the Comptroller and Auditor General that Local Governments were not competent to sanction the formation of temporary Divisions for a longer period than two years. The matter was referred to the Secretary of State, who, on the recommendation of the Government of India, has given full powers to Provincial Governments to create additional temporary Public Works Divisions at their discretion.

Recommendations of Public Works Department Reorganization Committee and Public Services Commission.

405. The recommendations of the Public Works Department Reorganization Committee and of the Public Services Commission were considered by this Government and their views submitted to the Government of India.

Training of Junior Assistant Engineers in Accounts.

406. The question of affording to junior Assistant Engineers of the Department a thorough training in initial accounts has been under consideration of Government. These officers have not up to the present been in a position to obtain any real insight into the system of accounts or in the fundamental financial rules of Government. It is considered desirable that all responsible disbursing officers should know more about these subjects than at present. This Government has therefore accepted the suggestion that all Assistant Engineers should be attached for a short period to the office of an Accountant-General to enable them to obtain a real basic training in accounts.

Depletion of staff owing to the war.

407. The working of the Department was handicapped by depletion of staff due to the war and it became necessary to curtail leave except in cases of necessity. Two divisions were placed under the charge of one officer and

Upper Subordinates held charge of regular Divisions for short periods. Out of a sanctioned scale of 49 officers 12 were on deputation to the Military Department.

408. During the year a post of District Engineer for local works in the Darjeeling District was created and the Department has been relieved of local original works hitherto carried out by the Executive Engineer of the Darjeeling Division from the Road and Improvement Funds. **New post of District Engineer in Darjeeling.**

Accounts.

409. The total outlay of the year 1918-19 on works (Buildings, Communications and Miscellaneous Public Improvements) amounted to Rs. 1,41,24,641, of which Rs. 91,76,464 were spent by the Public Works Department and Rs. 49,48,177 by local authorities. Of the expenditure of Rs. 91,76,464 incurred by the Public Works Department, Rs. 9,85,943 were spent on Imperial Works, Rs. 78,95,847 on Provincial Works and Rs. 2,94,674 on local and contribution works. **Accounts.**

Buildings.

IMPERIAL CIVIL WORKS.

410. A shed for storing surplus machinery and two latrines for workmen were constructed at His Majesty's Mint, Calcutta, and the road leading from the main entrance was paved with Sutna stone setts. **Mint.**

411. The following works were completed during the year :— **Post and Telegraph Offices.**

Construction of servants' quarters and a kitchen for the Presidency Post Master on the roof of the General Post Office, Calcutta, and improvements in the water-supply arrangements for menials on the roof of the building. Construction of a motor car shed and a workshop and godown in the compound of the Central Telegraph Office on the site of the existing pump ; additions and alterations to the Post and Telegraph Office at Vishnupur, Kanchrapara, Khulna and Jalpaiguri ; sinking a masonry well and filling in the existing tank in the compound of the Post and Telegraph Office at Bagerhat ; improvements to the Post Office and Post Master's quarters at Bogra ; improvements to the Post and Telegraph Office at Dinajpur ; and enlargement of the Sub-Post Office at Saidpur.

The old Munsifi at Raniganj was made over to the Postal Department for their use with certain structural changes. Materials were collected for certain additions and alterations to the combined Post and Telegraph Office at Pabna. Land was acquired for the combined Post and Telegraph Office at Mackenzie Road, Darjeeling. The construction of a Post Office with quarters for the Sub-Post Master at Cox's Bazar in the Chittagong district was taken in hand, and the construction of an engine-room and battery-shed attached to the Telegraph Office at Chittagong was completed except certain items connected with the foundation bed for the engine.

412. Vernacular Office, peons' quarters and quarters for the Settlement Officer at Jessore were completed. Construction of the Press-shed and Record-room was in progress. Vernacular Office and Record-room at Bankura were completed. **Settlement buildings.**

413. The lavatory accommodation for Europeans and Indians at the Indian Musem, Calcutta, was remodelled and improved. **Museum.**

PROVINCIAL CIVIL WORKS.

414. The following works were completed during the year :—

Provision of a connected latrine in the compound of the Criminal Court and installation of an electrically-driven pump in the Magistrate's Court at Howrah ; additions to the Sub-Treasury Guards' quarters at Bongong; **Revenue and Judicial Courts.**

extension of the Collector's Court at Suri; additions and alterations to the Sadar Treasury in Barrack No. 3 at Berhampore; alterations in the Bankura Collectorate; reconstruction of the Subdivisional Court at Tamluk; additions and alterations to the Mission House, Pabna, for use as a Magistrate's Court; provision of Jurors' seat in the Judge's Court, Pabna; extension of the Sessions Judge's *Ejlas* at Dinajpur; provision of overhead racks in the District Judge's record-room at Mymensingh; and additions to the Collectorate at Barisal.

Land was acquired for the construction of the District Judge's Court at Burdwan.

The following works were in progress:—

Additions and alterations to the Treasury Guard house at Rampurhat; construction of a combined Treasury and Guards' house in the Subdivisional Court compound at Lalbag; additions and alterations to the Collectorate at Pabna; addition of an upper storey to the Treasury Guards' quarters in the Sub-Treasury at Siliguri; extension of the Sub-Treasury Guard house at Natore; extension of the Subdivisional Court at Kurigram; provision of wall shelves for the storage of forms and certain additions and alterations to the Judge's Court, Dinajpur, and alterations to the Collectorate at Barisal.

Subdivisional Officers' and Munsiff's residence.

415. Additions and alterations were made in the 3rd Deputy Magistrate's residence at Khulna. Materials were collected for the construction of a residence for the Civil Subdivisional Officer at Alipur Duars and for additions and alterations to the servants' quarters attached to the Subdivisional Officer's residence at Nator. Ventilation of the Subdivisional Officers' quarters at Thakurgaon was improved. A masonry well was sunk in the compound of the Deputy Magistrate's residence at Serajganj. Construction of a residence for the Subdivisional Officer at Gopalganj was almost completed.

Circuit House.

416. Certain improvements were made in the system of lightning conductors at the Circuit House at Dinajpur.

Excise.

417. Additions and alterations to the Excise buildings at Chuadanga was in progress. Additions and alterations to the Kola Inspection Bungalow for converting it into a liquor warehouse and *ganja gola* were completed. Certain improvements to the spirit bonded warehouse at Santahar was taken in hand and half the work was completed. The double plain tiled roofing of the verandah of the *ganja* office at Naogaon was replaced by Raniganj tiled roofing.

Residences for Local Government.

418. Construction of an office building for the Private and Military Secretaries to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal adjacent to Government House, Darjeeling, was completed. Conversion of the upper set of servants' quarters for Government House at Lowlands Place into a Dhobikhana and construction of a new double-storeyed building for the accommodation of servants were taken in hand. Sanitary improvements to the temporary Government House at Dacca were carried out.

Residences for Government officials.

419. Improvements were made to the Commissioner's residence at Jalpaiguri. Additions and alterations to the District Judge's residence at Pabna was nearly completed. Additions and alterations, electric installation and construction of some temporary buildings in the compound of Bungalow No. 6, the official residence of the Hon'ble Maharaja of Burdwan, Executive Member, at Dacca, were completed. Raising the land acquired for ministerial officers' quarters at Manikganj was nearly completed.

Jails.

420. The following works were completed :—

Extension of the District Jail, Howrah, and construction of quarters for the Sub-Assistant Surgeon in the Jail compound; construction of an additional barrack for warders in the District Jail at Suri; additions and alterations to the godown of the Sub-Jail at Serampore; provision of a cage latrine in the Narail Sub-Jail; construction of an entrance double gate for the Bongong Sub-Jail; provision in the District Jail at Khulna of a 200-gallon Alipore pattern circular water boiler with necessary tanks for settling and cooling water and reservoir for storing unboiled water; additions and alterations to the Sub-Jail at Bagerhat; improvements to the doors and windows of the sleeping barracks in the Dinajpur Jail; raising the compound and

plinth of the Sub-Jail at Gaibanda for improving the drainage; provision of a cage latrine and extension of an outlet drain in the Sub-Jail at Gaibanda; construction of a *pucca* compound wall for the Sub-Jail at Gopalganj; construction of 6 cells of standard pattern in the Chittagong Jail; and construction of a separate tuberculosis ward in the Comilla Jail.

The following works were in progress :—

Construction of quarters for the Sub-Assistant Surgeon and Assistant Jailor attached to the District Jail at Khulna; construction of a Jail hospital at Jalpaiguri; provision of a new pump to the masonry well in the Malda Jail; sinking a masonry well in the Bogra Jail; construction of a new drain in the Jalpaiguri Jail; construction of a new kitchen for the Hindu and Muhammadan prisoners in the Pabna Jail; and construction of a temporary Sub-Jail at Kalimpong.

421. The construction of the new Police Office building at Lal Bazar, Calcutta, was completed. The old Police building at Lal Bazar was converted into a barrack for the head-constables and constables after considerable structural additions and alterations. A fourth storey was added to it for use as kitchen and electric installation was provided. The old Reserve Police Barrack at Howrah was converted into a Police office and electric lights and fans were installed. The new Police town outpost building at Gouripore was constructed. Temporary accommodation for Police Hospital, Calcutta, was provided for in the compound of the Police Training School at Dhullandah. Additions and alterations were carried out in the Inspector and Sub-Inspector's quarters at Watgunge Thana premises No. 113, Upper Circular Road, occupied by the Sukea Street Thana, were acquired and thoroughly repaired. Land was acquired for the construction of a Police Morgue and quarters for the Assistant Surgeon. Premises No. 89, Park Street, was also acquired for Park Street Police Section and No. 19 and 19-1, Lal Bazar, for the quarters of the married Sergeants of the Calcutta Police. **Police.**

The following works were also completed :—

Quarters for 2 Sub-Inspectors and 2 head-constables, a small investigating centre and a parade shed at Onda in the Bankura district; outhouses and Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters attached to the Police Hospital under construction at Bankura; two sets of Sub-Inspectors' quarters, one set of Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters; two sets of head-constables and hospital servants and cooks' quarters in the Reserve Police Lines at Burdwan; an additional Police Hospital building at Chinsurah: additions and alterations in the residence of the Superintendent of Police at Chinsurah; Armed Police Inspector's quarters at Bankura; Police buildings at Keshabpur, Indas and Jessore; Deputy Superintendent of Police's residence at Diamond Harbour; quarters for 2 Sub-Inspectors and one head-constable in the police-station at Dumuria, district Khulna; Police buildings at Mollahat; quarters for Sub-Assistant Surgeon, compounder, bhisties and cook and a well in connection with the Police Hospital at Midnapore; Reserve Police Office at Midnapore; additions and alterations to Assistant Superintendent of Police's residence at Contai; investigating centres at Gangarampur, Niamutpur, Dhamrai, Melundah, Islampur, Wazirpur, Madhukhali, Rajapur, Ramoo, Nabinagore, Debiduar; quarters for an Armed Reserve Inspector, one Sub-Inspector, and 5 head-constables in the Police Lines at Dinajpur; quarters for 3 Sub-Inspectors, 4 head-constables and 2 cooksheds for constables at the Kotwali Police-station, Dinajpur; replacing the thatched roof of the Police Hospital at Rajshahi by a terraced roof; sinking a masonry well in the Police-station at Nandigram; improvements in the Deputy Superintendent of Police's residence a Nator; removing and re-erecting the latrines in the new Police Lines at Rangpur; quarters for 2 Sub-Inspectors and one head-constable at Basail; a residence for Assistant Superintendent of Police or Deputy Superintendent of Police at Manikganj; a drill shed and a new stable for Constables' Training School, Dacca; Police buildings at Perojpur; improvements and thorough repairs to the Sub-Inspector and head-constables' quarters in the Kotwali Police-station at Faridpur; Town Police Barrack near Observatory at Faridpur; Office building for Superintendent of Police, Comilla.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH ROYAL

The following works were in progress :—

Police building at Khandghosh, Polba, Chuadanga, Hanskhali, Khoksa, Nabagram, Churni, Krishnanagar and some buildings in the Reserve Police Line, Burdwan ; Assistant Superintendent of Police's residence at Serampore ; additions and alterations to the Choa Silk Factory to convert it into a Police-station ; Police buildings at Faracca, Diamond Harbour, Mooriganga, and Debhatta ; quarters for a Sub-Inspector and a head-constable at Shamnagar ; Deputy Superintendent of Police's residence at Basirhat ; Police Inspector's and head-constables' quarters at Ramjibanpur ; Police building at Sangat-bazar and Keshpur in Midnapore ; additions and alterations to the constables' barrack in the Sadar Thana at Midnapore ; Police buildings at Nandanali, Chatmohar, Pirganj, Paba, Titulia, Kishoreganj, Fulbari, Kaunia, Rahumari, Joypurhat, Gabtali, Serajganj, Pabna, Tapan, Mohunpur Khord, Raninagar, Dhamairhat, Gurudaspur ; Deputy Inspector-General's residence at Jalpaiguri ; Sub-Inspector and Court Sub-Inspector's quarters at Thakurgaon ; Police buildings at Singair, Baidyerbazar, Ganderia, Serajdikhan, Faridabad, Kaoran, Kalmakanda, Janjira ; River Police head-quarters at Barisal ; Police buildings at Charbhadrasan, Kalkini, Rajeer, Chandpur, Feni and Faridganj and Deputy Inspector-General's residence at Basail ; Military Police buildings at Peel-khana, Dacca ; conversion of the Bank house at Chandpur into a residence for the Assistant Superintendent of Police (nearing completion).

The following works in connection with the Police Training College at Sardah were completed :—

Construction of a Segregation Ward for Mumps patients ; filling up borrow pits and raising hollow land by digging a large tank ; conversion of Factory No. IIA into cooksheds and construction of new kitchens ; construction of night urinals ; provision of compound wall, latrine and stable for the quarters of the Drill Instructor ; construction of married constables' quarters, an engine shed for Spencer's petrol plant and Raniganj tiled shed over Walton's well ; provision of water tank for the Mumps ward ; additions and alterations to Factory No. II and IIA ; construction of kitchens for Cadets, a 12-seated latrine, 2 quarters for menials, 2 rows of kitchens, a masonry well, temporary thatched houses for recruits, and an armoury.

Gymnasium and Drill shed were almost completed. Works of making roads and approaches and re-excavating a large tank were taken in hand. Terraced floor of the officer's mess was replaced by a stone floor.

Educational.

422. The following educational works were completed :—

Hindu and Muhammadan kitchens for the Guru-Training School at Suri and Khatra ; construction of a common room and its subsequent extension, Professors' sitting room, certain improvements to the Principal's quarters and additions and alterations to the Science Laboratories in the Krishnagar College ; latrine and urinal for the boarders of the Muhammadan Boarding house attached to the Nawab Bahadur's Institution at Murshidabad ; conversion of the drill shed attached to the Khulna Zilla School into a recreation room ; removal of a well from the Taki Government School ; alteration to the sanitary fittings in the south lavatory of the dormitory buildings, Dow Hill, Kurseong ; removing the masonry pillar and substituting a big opening with an iron pillar at the centre in the Science Room, Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong ; provision of windows in the north wall of the Assembly Hall (1st floor) of the school building at Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong ; construction of a metalled road from the school building to the Rajbanshi hostel and a four-seated urinal in the compound of the Zilla School, Rangpur.

The following works were in progress :—

Coustruction of a Mualim Training School at Hooghly ; sweepers' shed for the Government School at Taki ; construction of Guru-Training Schools at Kurigram and Thakurgaon ; construction of Muhammadan hostels attached to the Bogra, Pabna and Rangpur Zilla Schools ; certain improvements to the compound of the Zilla School, Rangpur ; construction of tiffin and drinking water shed for the Jalpaiguri Zilla School ; improvements to the Hindu and Muhammadan cooksheds attached to the Normal School, Rangpur ; construction of Guru-Training School at Thakurgaon ; extension of the tennis ground at Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong ; construction of a wooden

godown attached to the kitchen of the Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong; completing the enclosure wall, filling up the small tank and improving the compound of the Vidyamayee Girls' School at Mymensingh; acquisition, raising and dressing the land in connection with the Zilla School at Barisal; additions and alterations to the Middle Vernacular Girls' School and Mistresses' quarters at Faridpur; dismantling the Zilla School at Noakhali; construction of a temporary Zilla School at Sonapur in the Noakhali district.

423. Servants' and menials' quarters at Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, with electric installations were completed. Additions and alterations to the outdoor dispensary and improvement to the latrines attached to the Superintendent's office and Resident Medical Officer's room were also carried out. Installation of an electric pump for filtered water-supply in the Nurses' quarters was completed. **Hospitals and Dispensaries.**

Improvements to the Contagious Wards attached to the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, Bhowanipur, were carried out and the tank on the north of the hospital filled in. Also quarters for the Nursing Superintendent were constructed on the site of No. 3, Lee Road, Bhowanipur, purchased from the Calcutta Corporation.

Materials were collected for the construction of quarters for Indian females and males for Lunatic Observation Ward at Bhowanipur. Construction of servants' quarters, Medical College Hospital, was nearing completion. The School of Tropical Medicine, Medical College, Calcutta, was completed and land was acquired for the Eye Hospital.

he following works were also completed :—

Providing doors and windows in the European Female Ward in the Central Lunatic Asylum, Berhampore; special repairs to Gourju's House (Civil Surgeon's residence at Berhampore); construction of new quarters for the Nursing Sisters of the Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association (Bengal Branch) at Jalpaiguri; improvements to the Mortuary at Serajganj; additions and alterations to the Museum and Demonstrators' room in the Medical School, Dacca; and extension of the Medical School, Dacca.

Construction of the King Edward Memorial Block, Assistant Surgeons' quarters, a European Ward, roads, outlets, drains and also laying out grounds and providing furniture for the Mitford Hospital, Dacca, made fair progress.

424. Land was acquired at Chetla for a new Press for the Bengal Secretariat. The installation of electric fans, lights and ventilating fans in the Bengal Secretariat Press in Writers' Buildings was completed. Additions and alterations to the electric light installation in the Old Cutchery Building (Press portion) at Darjeeling was completed. **Printing.**

425. Certain improvements were done to the Sub-Registry Office at Indas; steel record racks were provided in the Sadar Registration Office at Krishnagar. The Sub-Registrar's Office and quarters with the land on which they stand at Gushkara was acquired. The Sub-Registrar's Office and quarters at Mollahat was completed. Additions and alterations to the Registration Office at Pabna were nearly completed. Materials were collected for alterations to the Subdivisional Court at Nator for the Registration Office. The Sub-Registry Office at Srinagar was completed. Materials were collected for the reconstruction of the Registration Office building at Mymensingh which was destroyed by fire. **Registration.**

426. The following works were completed :— **Public Works Department Buildings.**

(1) Re-excavating the Public Works Department tank attached to the Subdivisional office compound, Pabna.

(2) Improving the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer's residence at Dinajpur.

(3) Constructing a Public Works Department temporary godown at Sardah.

(4) Conversion of a part of the Public Works Department godown at Pabna into quarters for a Sub-Overseer.

(5) Construction of temporary quarters and Sectional office for the Public Works Department Sectional Officer at Sardah.

(6) Construction of certain Public Works Department buildings at Gairkatta.

Archæological Works.

427. Thorough repairs were done to 14 ancient temples in and near Vishnupur. Special repairs to the cloisters of Adina Mosque at Pandua was completed.

Miscellaneous Works.

428. Land was acquired for the construction of a Research Tannery at Tangra and building operation was started. Connected latrines and urinals for the clerks and menials were constructed on the north-west portion of the Belvedere Building. A portion of Government land at the north entrance of Belvedere was given to the Corporation and a new gateway with road inside was constructed. Improvements and special repairs were carried out to Belvedere for the residence of His Excellency the Viceroy during cold weather. An installation of electric lights and fans was provided for in Babus' quarters attached to Belvedere to be used by the Curator of the Victoria Memorial Exhibition. Wrought iron railings were provided for on the dwarf wall in the Avenue Compound of the Bengal Veterinary College, Belgachia.

Works in connection with the proposed head-quarters of the Hijli District.

429. The construction of a railway siding at Gokulpore was nearly completed. Materials were being collected for the construction of Collectorate building, Circuit house, Dâk Bungalow and three Deputy Magistrates' residence at Hijli and Inspection Bungalow at Jhargram. The acquired land for the new district was demarcated by boundary pillars and survey and alignment of the roads and paths were undertaken.

Materials have been collected for the construction of a new Civil Station at Alipur Duars. Certain improvements to the Eden Sanitarium and construction of a War Memorial Chapel to the east side of the north Transept of the St. Andrew's Church at Darjeeling were completed. Materials were being collected for the construction of a kitchen and dining hall and certain additions and alterations to the Loreto Convent, Darjeeling.

Mymensingh Partition Scheme.

430. Land was acquired for the new district headquarters at Jamalpur and Kishoreganj and the headquarters of the proposed subdivisions at Dhanbari, Iswarganj, Bajitpur and the proposed rural Magistracy at Itna.

Contribution works.

431. The construction of a hospital for Tropical Diseases, Medical College, Calcutta, was completed. Electric installation, including lifts and pumps, was also provided for. Conversion of the southern vatshed into a *ganja gola* attached to the warehouse, Dacca, and improvements to the play ground of the High English School at Kaliganj were completed.

CONSULTING ARCHITECT'S REPORT.

Architectural work.

432. The Consulting Architect has submitted the following report regarding the more important projects prepared in his office. A number of photographs of recently completed buildings designed by the Consulting Architect are appended to the report.

New Police Offices, Lal Bazar, Calcutta.

433. This building has now been completed and was handed over to the Police Department at the end of last year. When the building was designed the opportunity was taken of setting back the frontage and widening the street at this point.

The old Police Court building adjoining has been entirely remodelled, the external staircase removed and the pavement widened at this point, all internal walls that it was possible to remove have been dismantled and healthy dormitories have been provided in this building for 380 constables. A new fireproof stair has been constructed to the roof on which is provided accommodation for cooking, bathing places and latrines. Sketches have been prepared for an additional building which it is proposed to construct on the land immediately to the west of the existing Police Office providing quarters for three Assistant Commissioners, 20 sets of quarters for Inspectors and Sergeants and a hall for drill purposes.

Police Morgue.

434. No less than four sketch schemes have been made for to new Police Morgue, but difficulties have been raised by adjoining owners to this building in their immediate vicinity. The difficulty has at last been overcome

working drawings have been prepared and the new Morgue and Coroner's Court is at present under construction in Nilmadhub Sen Lane where it will have for neighbours slaughter-house and a disused pumping station.

435. Working drawings have been prepared for an extension of the School of Tropical Medicine to the east to form a Hygiene Institute. Further working drawings have been prepared for adding an additional storey over the whole building. **School of Tropical Medicine.**

436. Sketches have been prepared for extending the existing Nurses' Home and building an additional one so that 200 nurses can be accommodated in all, in separate cubicles. **Nurses' Home, Medical College.**

437. Sketches have been prepared for the extension of the existing building, but it is understood that further accommodation is now considered necessary than originally contemplated. **Eden Hospital, Medical College.**

438. Extra accommodation is badly needed at the General Post Office and working drawings have been prepared for a large sorting office to be constructed over the existing arcade which is all that remains of old Fort William. This arcade possesses more historic interest than archæological value. It has however been decided that it is desirable to retain it. The new buildings will be constructed over this arcade but entirely independent of it so that the latter can be removed at a later date if necessary. In the meantime it will be utilized as a motor car garage. **General Post Office extension.**

439. After considerable alteration and delay a scheme has been adopted for the above project, working drawings have been prepared and these buildings are now under construction. **Observation Wards, Bhowanipur.**

440. Drawings have been made for the main building to take 308 beds and this building is now under construction. **Police Hospital, Bhowanipur.**

441. Working drawings have been prepared and it is hoped that this work will be started shortly. **Bengal Secretariat Press, Chetla.**

442. Working drawings were prepared for providing extra accommodation for the police in the Howrah General Hospital. This scheme has however been abandoned and working drawings have since been prepared for a hospital for 104 beds to be built at Sibpur. **Howrah Police Hospital.**

443. Considerable progress has now been made with the rebuilding of the Mitford Hospital. The Administrative Block and new Female Surgical Ward, Infectious Wards, Nurses' Home, alterations to old Dufferin Ward and new servants' quarters were practically completed before the year under review. The construction of the main block which constitutes the King Edward Memorial is well advanced and should be completed towards the end of this year. This block will contain beds for 112 males. and provision has been made for an additional storey taking 56 beds should the necessity arise. The construction of an Assistant Surgeon's residence with wards for European patients is also now under construction. **Dacca Police Hospital.**

444. Sketches have been made for the extension of the Collectorate, but working drawings have not yet been taken in hand. **Collectorate.**

445. A considerable amount of designing has been done in connection with the proposed new Civil Station at Hijli, but no construction was started during the period under review. A general lay-out has been approved and working drawings prepared for the Collectorate and Treasury Block, the District Magistrate and the Civil Surgeon's residences. **Hijli.**

Designs have also been prepared for the Sub-Jail and the buildings in the Police lines.

COMMUNICATIONS.

446. The construction of a Rest shed at Mohanpur in mile 49 of the Grand Trunk Road was nearly completed. **Burdwan.**

The construction of pucca drains on either side of the Grand Trunk Road at Pandua Bazar, and of a pucca drain at mile 15, 2nd quarter of the old Grand Trunk Road at Serampore, were commenced.

Darjeeling.

447. The following works were taken in hand and completed during the year :—

(1) Converting the existing dry stone drain into a pucca drain in the 3rd mile of Rangit Road below Lebong Cantonment.

(2) Cutting a 2″ trace, erecting stone pillars, and surveying the proposed roads in connection with the development of Kalimpong as a hill station.

The first section of the Lachen Road from Teesta Bridge to Rungpoo with the rest-house at Melli was taken over from the charge of the Political Officer, Sikkim, by the Executive Engineer, Darjeeling Division, for purposes of maintenance on the 8th October 1918.

The question of the elimination of dangerous railway level-crossings on the Darjeeling Hill Cart Road continued to engage the attention of Government. During the year under review 18 crossings were removed by the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Company, the cost being met from the Mutual Improvement Fund ; and the removal of another 45 crossings was under contemplation.

Jalpaiguri.

448. Work in connection with the Duars Roads Improvement Scheme was mainly confined to the completion of all unfinished work included in the Rs. 20 lakhs programme. Since the commencement of the scheme in December 1913, 82 miles of road were metalled up to 31st March 1919, leaving a balance of 3½ miles to be completed. Construction was also in progress on six major bridges, of which two were completed, and the remainder were nearing completion. It is expected that the whole scheme, so far as it now extends, will be completed by the end of the year 1919-20.

The Gairkatta-Dalgaon Road was completed up to the 8th, the Dalgaon-Lankapara Road, 2nd section, up to the 4th, and the Jainti-Dhawla Road to the 8th mile. The Alipur-Kumargram Road was fully completed. The construction of the road beyond Samoktola and up to Kumargram was left in abeyance.

Two additional spans were constructed for the bridge over the Gadadhar river, and a bridge was built over the Sukti river.

The construction of the bridge over the Jaldhaka river, which was taken up in 1917, was in progress and nearing completion.

The construction of the bridges over the Dimdima and Kalua rivers, which were taken up last year, was in progress.

The construction of the bridge on the Pagli river was taken in hand during the year.

Jainti.

449. The Railway Bungalow at Jainti, which was purchased last year for use as Public Works Department Inspection Bungalow, was brought up to the standard required and was being used by Inspecting Officers.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

450. The construction of a road from Mahalsory to Ramgarh, which has been in progress since 1915-16, was again taken in hand during the year under review, but could not be completed for want of labour.

Progress was made in the construction of 2 bridle roads from Nainerchar to Mainomukh and from Khagrasory to Dighinala, a revised estimate for which was sanctioned during the year.

ARBORICULTURE.

Arboriculture.

451. Arboricultural operations along roads in charge of the Public Works Department were carried out as far as funds permitted.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Calcutta.

452. In March 1918, the attention of Government was specially drawn to the serious congestion of traffic in Chowringhee Road, Calcutta, between Lindsay Street and Corporation Street, due largely to the great increase in

recent years in the number of taxi cabs and other motor vehicles using that road. A Committee was convened to advise Government as to the best means of dealing with this congestion. The Committee recommended that the tramway lines on the west side of the road should be removed to the Maidan and that Chowringhee should be widened to include the strip now used by the trams from a point near Mayo Road to Ochterlony Road. Their proposals were accepted by Government and the sanction of the Government of India was obtained to the tramway being laid on the Maidan. Owing to difficulty in obtaining tramway materials, it was not possible to make a start with the work till after the close of the year.

453. The remodelling of the Kutchery Jhora at Darjeeling and the erection of boundary pillars between Nepal and British India in the Darjeeling District were completed. **Darjeeling.**

454. The protection of the town of Rajshahi from flooding by the Ganges by embankment No. 56 was strengthened by the construction of a retired line for a short distance and by a stone and brick revetment; the work was almost completed. **Rajshahi.**

Considerable erosion of the back of the river Ganges threatened the Provincial Police Training School buildings at Sardah. Steps were therefore taken to protect the bank by a stone and brick revetment at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,40,250. The collection of stone and preparation of the bank was commenced.

A ring bund was constructed as a protective measure behind the existing Talaimari Embankment No. 55.

455. The Circuit House at Pabna was demolished as the site was threatened by the river Ganges. A survey of the river in the neighbourhood was also undertaken in order to ascertain what measures might be taken for the safety of the town. **Pabna.**

456. The coast erosion at Noakhali continued during the year; 658′ width of coast was cut away as compared with 815′ and 863′ during the two previous years. As there was every likelihood of many of the District Headquarters buildings being destroyed, arrangements were made to secure a site for temporary buildings at Sonapur near Noakhali. **Noakhali**

457. The more important public buildings in the Presidency were illuminated and decorated on the night of the 30th November 1918 in celebration of the cessation of hostilities with the Central Powers in Europe. **General.**

CONTRIBUTION WORKS.

458. The drainage scheme for the Kalimpong Bazar and town which was taken up during the previous year was not completed owing to the non-receipt of tile drains. **Darjeeling.**

Railways.

459. The more important railways in the Presidency of Bengal are under the control of the Government of India. The following light railways of local importance are partially controlled by the Government of Bengal :— **Administration.**

	Gauge. Ft.	In.	Miles.
(1) Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway	2	0	51·00
(2) Bengal Provincial Railway (Tarkeswar-Tribeni) ...	2	6	33·27
(3) Howrah-Amta Light Railway	2	0	43·87
(4) Howrah-Sheakhalla Light Railway	2	0	19·75
(5) Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway	2	6	52·24
(6) Jessore-Jhenidah Railway	2	6	36·75
Total			236·88

Mileage.

460. In the year 1918-19, 38·00 miles of new railways were opened for traffic, as shown below :—

Standard (5′ 6″) gauge.

Nil.

Metre (3′ 3⅜″) gauge.

	Miles
Bengal Duars Railway—	
Chalsa-Metelli Section	5·25
Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway—	
Shamganj-Jaria Jhanjail Section	13·00
Narrow (2′ 6″) gauge.	
Khulna-Bagerhat Railway	19·75
Total ...	38·00

With these additions the total mileage open on 31st March 1919 was as follows :—

	Miles
Standard (5′ 6″) gauge	1,461·16
Metre (3′ 3⅜″) „	1,289·81
Narrow (2′ 6″) „	335·55
„ (2′ 0″) „	183·40
Total ...	3,269·92

Surveys sanctioned.

461. The following surveys were sanctioned by the Railway Board during the year :—

(1) A reconnaissance survey for a line of railway on the 2′ 6″ gauge from Udairampur, a station on the Kalighat-Falta Railway, to Raipur, a distance of about 9 miles.

(2) A detailed survey for a line of railway on the 5′ 6″ gauge from a point on the Ondal-Sainthia Section of the East Indian Railway to serve the Kasta Collieries, a distance of about 18 miles.

(3) Maungdaw-Akyab Railway Survey.

(4) Parbatipur-Bonarpara Chord Railway Reconnaissance Survey.

(5) A reconnaissance survey for a line of railway on the 2′ 0″ gauge from Ghum to Simana Bustee, a distance of about 10 miles.

Lines opened during the year.

462. Chalsa-Metelli Branch of the Bengal Duars Railway is intended to serve several tea gardens ; there are no intermediate stations, but a tea siding takes off half way

The Khulna-Bagerhat Light Railway commences at Rupsa East on the left bank of the Rupsa river about 2 miles below Khulna Station of the Eastern Bengal Railway and follows the right bank of the Bhairab river in an easterly direction until it terminates at Bagerhat.

The river Bhairab used to be the chief means of transport between Khulna and Bagerhat, but as the river has now silted up and is only navigable by small boats at high tide, the Railway will take the place of the river for transport of goods and passengers.

Other important matters.

463. The question whether the Secretary of State should exercise the option of purchasing the Mymensingh-Jagannathganj Railway on 31st December 1919 in accordance with the terms of the existing contract with the India General Steam Navigation Company was referred to this Government for an expression of opinion by the Government of India (Railway Board). In reply the Railway Board were informed that this Government concurred in the proposed acquisition by Government of the Railway.

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works for the year 1918-19. Statistics of British India, Part III—Commercial service.]

464. The transactions of the Irrigation Department, Bengal Presidency, for the year 1918-19 are exhibited in the following statement so far as they relate to works of irrigation and navigation :— **Capital and Revenue Accounts.**

Capital Account.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1918-19.	Expenditure to end of 1918-19.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1919.
Major Irrigation Works.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direct charges ...	1,08,65,879	2,126	1,08,65,356	523
Indirect „ ...	2,48,678	73	2,48,833	(-)155
Total ...	1,11,14,557	2,199	1,11,14,189	368
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges ...	1,60,19,963	3,93,093	1,39,30,771	20,89,192
Indirect „ ...	2,74,742	9,688	2,15,114	59,628
Total ...	1,62,94,705	4,02,781	1,41,45,885	21,48,820

Revenue Account.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working Expenses.			Net revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works ...	3,04,605	2,30,815	11,648	2,42,463	62,142
Minor Works and Navigation.					
Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept.	8,26,225	4,43,284	18,994	4,62,278	3,63,947
Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept.	38,498	54,669	3,530	58,199	(-)19,701
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.	22,600	52,101	...	52,101	(-)29,501

465. The following statement shows the areas irrigated during the year as compared with the average of the triennial period ending March 1918 :— **Irrigation.**

	Midnapore Canal (Major Works).			Eden Canal (Minor Works).		
	Kharif, inclusive of hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.	Kharif, inclusive of hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the triennium ending March 1918.	84,642	1,019	85,661	26,461	417	26,878
For 1918-19 ...	80,749	...	80,749	19,876	663	20,539

Lengths of Canals.

466. The following statement shows the lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year 1918-19 :—

	Midnapore Canal. Miles.	Eden Canal. Miles.
Main canals, irrigation ...	...	27·5
Branch canals, irrigation ...	16·75	
Distributaries of above ...	254·54	17·6
Navigable channels ...	69·75	...

Navigation.

467. The following statement shows the traffic on the navigable canals during the year 1918-19 as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1918 :—

		Midnapore Canal		Hijli Tidal Canal.		Calcutta Eastern Canals.		Madaripur Bhil Route.		Orissa Coast Canal.		Nadia Rivers.	
		Average of the triennium ending March 1918.	For the year 1918-19.	Average of the triennium ending March 1918.	For the year 1918-19.	Average of the triennium ending March 1918.	For the year 1918-19.	Average of the triennium ending March 1918.	For the year 1918-19.	Average of the triennium ending March 1918.	For the year 1918-19.	Average of the triennium ending March 1918.	For the year 1918-19.
Length of canal open ...	Miles	69·7	69·7	43	49·7	1,184	1,184	38	38	54·5	54·5	488·5	488·5
Receipts ...	Rs.	39,253	49,440	53,250	66,957	315,840	453,867	2,89,945	3,48,074	11,459	14,654	15,569	19,485
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement ...	Tons	344,423	388,728	202,463	258,479	854,029	12,15,883	870,025	918,548	91,515	126,615	79,739	102,587
Estimated weight of cargo ...	,,	66,592	83,304	77,879	81,931	585,475	833,733	1,130,010	1,570,285	32,000	40,237	55,867	74,110
Estimated value of goods	Rs.	70,58,774	78,17,773	57,46,185	79,87,031	6,93,00,433	9,56,12,672	14,02,99,385	16,67,49,017	23,41,100	29,42,775	70,61,491	1,10,73,570
Estimated value of rafts	,,	5,655	9,686	6,365	12,614	50,292	26,173	3,746	3,593	41,425	32,792	59,784	33,428

In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India the discharges of certain rivers as shown below were observed during the year under review :—

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Damodar River.

Date.	Discharges in cusecs at— Jujuty.	Jamalpur.	Hapurpur.	Jhanpur.
1918.				
3rd April ...	194	...	...	...
15th ,, ...	...	363	...	...
30th May ...	...	337	...	...
31st ,, ...	2,532	...	...	...
21st June ...	5,701	8,508	...	...
25th July ...	...	1,513	...	...
29th ,, ...	...	...	1,666	...
30th ,, ...	918	...	...	...
14th August ...	13,984	...	...	...
29th ,, ...	...	...	35,964	...
31st ,, ...	...	12,158	...	...
23rd September ...	...	4,750	...	...
30th ,, ...	2,300	...	3,072	...
1st October ...	1,837	...	...	...
7th ,, ...	...	1,190	1,184	...
15th ,, ...	1,205	936	...	...
16th ,, ...	...	...	947	...
21st ,, ...	...	579	855	...
27th ,, ...	839	...	...	...
28th ,, ...	...	512	...	...

	Discharges in cusecs at—			
	Jujuty	Jamalpur.	Hapurpur.	Jhanpur.
1918.				
1st November ...	...	...	742	...
8th „ ...	657	...	...	...
15th „ ...	594	436	...	...
16th „ ...	...	...	309	...
22nd „ ...	462	...	...	...
28th „ ...	...	365	...	...
30th „ ...	426	...	211	...
15th December ...	...	209	...	...
16th „ ...	...	...	197	...
28th „ ...	...	200	...	...
31st „ ...	300	...	195	...
1919.				
15th January ...	...	169	196	...
22nd „ ...	727	...	...	...
27th „ ...	...	...	281	...
28th „ ...	...	247	...	...
31st „ ...	3,885	...	...	...
12th February ...	...	...	1,266	...
13th „ ...	...	1,169	...	...
18th „ ...	882	...	...	...
24th „ ...	...	...	982	...
26th „ ...	408	...	...	...
15th March ...	...	...	363	...
16th „ ...	...	333	...	79
17th „ ...	...	...	...	78
18th „ ...	...	...	...	61
25th „ ...	...	863	...	...
27th „ ...	...	244	...	...
31st „ ...	...	...	...	411

NOTE.—The discharges of the Damodar taken from 2nd November 1918 to 31st January 1919 and 20th March 1919 to 31st March 1919 are of one branch of the river and those from 5th April 1918 to 13th May 1918 relate to percolation water (below Jujuty) through the sand dam at Jujuty.

DARKESWAR RIVER.

1918.	Arambagh. Cusecs.
5th April ...	84
20th „ ...	165
5th May ...	201
20th „ ...	471
5th June ...	599
20th „ ...	840
6th July ...	715
12th „ ...	1,623
19th „ ...	1,089
2nd August ...	764
23rd „ ...	15,464
31st „ ...	2,192
6th September ...	6,475
13th „ ...	1,981
8th October ...	370

1918.	Aram Cusecs.
17th October ...	273
29th „ ...	165
6th November ...	126
2nd „ ...	117
7th December ...	106
22nd „ ...	126
1919.	
7th January ...	158
21st „ ...	204
8th February ...	128
28th „ ...	100
10th March ...	85
28th „ ...	63

AJAI RIVER.

Date.	Locality.	Discharge taken by means of velocity rods. C. ft. per sec.
1918.		
26th April ...	Satkahonia	277
17th May ...	Ditto	1,408
31st „ ...	Ditto	1,333
18th June ...	Ditto	13,211
29th July ...	Ditto	808
30th „ ...	Ditto	11,103
27th September ...	Ditto	723
7th October ...	Ditto	498
15th „ ...	Ditto	246
23rd „ ...	Ditto	242
31st „ ...	Ditto	206
27th November ...	Ditto	152
30th December ...	Ditto	99
1919.		
30th January ...	Ditto	6,249
20th February ...	Ditto	324
31st March ...	Ditto	186*

* Surface velocity.

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

Name of river.	SEPTEMBER 1918.					OCTOBER 1918.				
	Maximum discharge.		Minimum discharge.			Maximum discharge.		Minimum discharge.		
	Date.	Quantity in cusecs.	Date.	Quantity in cusecs.	Average discharge.	Date.	Quantity in cusecs.	Date.	Quantity in cusecs.	Average discharge.
District Birbhum.										
More ...	30th	29,863	29th	459	1,919	5th	902	2nd	459	665
Bansloe ...	13th	21,963	29th	276	1,581	14th	585	13th	154	224
Brahmini ...	13th	19,509	27th	892	3,512	30th	1,326	27th	135	441

Classification of irrigation and Navigation works.

468. The classification of works dealt with in this review is as follows :—

Account—"49—Major Works".—In these are included the Midnapore and the Hijli Tidal canals. The latter is used for navigation only, while the former provides for both irrigation and navigation. The original capital accounts of these canals have been closed and all present capital outlay is charged against head "43—Minor Works and Navigation." The revenue account is shown under "42—Major Works—Working expenses."

Account—"43—Minor Works and Navigation"—(*i*) The works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept include the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and the Madaripur Bhil Route. These are intended for navigation. (*ii*) The works for which only revenue accounts are kept are the Nadia Rivers, the Gaighatta and Baxi khal and a part of the Orissa Coast Canal. Under (*ii*) is also included the Magra Hat Drainage Scheme in the 24-Parganas district, which has been carried out under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act. As the work is an agricultural work, its transactions are not reviewed in this report. (*iii*) The works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept include (*a*) the Eden Canal, which is used partly for irrigation and partly to afford a supply of water for drinking and sanitation, and (*b*) training works carried out for the conservancy of the rivers Ganges, Bhagirathi, Dhaleswari and Buriganga.

Agricultural and drainage works have not been reviewed here as these subjects are separately dealt with in the Embankment and Drainage Report.

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly described in the following summary which is given for convenience by circles of superintendence.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Midnapore Canal.

Capital outlay.

469. A sum of Rs. 2,126 (direct charges) debitable to the capital account of the canal was expended during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to end of the year was Rs. 83,14,551. (1) During the year under review the actual expenditure on works was Rs. 3,119. This sum was utilized in improving the quarters occupied by the revenue staff at Debra in the Midnapore district, and in completing the construction of permanent irrigation outlets from No. 3 distributary in the Lachmapur subdivision. The total expenditure under this head, inclusive of establishment, tools and plant charges, amounted to Rs. 3,699 against which there were receipts amounting to Rs. 1,573; the nett expenditure was consequently Rs. 2,126.

Rainfall

470. The rainfall at Midnapore during the year was 58·44 inches as compared with 62·83 inches of the previous year. There were no high floods in the Cossye Division during the year.

Irrigation.

471. The area irrigated from the canal was 80,749 acres against 87,507 acres during the year 1917-18. The decrease was due to seasonable and well distributed rainfall at the commencement of the *kharif* season.

The cash realization on account of water-rates during the year was Rs. 1,61,571 against a total demand of Rs. 1,66,543. The amount remitted or written off during the year was Rs. 2,768 as compared with Rs. 2,713 in the preceding year. The balance unrealized at the end of the year was Rs. 2,204 as against Rs. 879 at the end of the previous year.

The heavy balance of water-rates is attributable to the poor outturn of crop in some villages, owing to the insufficient supply of water for which remission of water-rates had to be granted, and to the economic strain caused by the high prices of daily necessaries of life during the war. It is also partly due to the fact that some of the villages came under lease at the end of the irrigation season, thus causing a delay in the assessment and collection of the water-rates. The nett collection, however, of water-rates on this canal continues to be satisfactory, having been 98·7 per cent. of the demand. The rate for long-term leases was raised from Re. 1-8 to Rs. 2 per acre with effect from 1st April 1905. The question of further enhancing the rate has been held in abeyance.

Navigation.

472. The navigation receipts during the year showed considerable improvement over those of the previous year, being Rs. 49,440 as compared with Rs. 39,363 during the year 1917-18. This increase was due to the partial diversion of railway traffic to the canal, owing to restricted supply of goods wagons on account of conditions arising out of the war.

Financial Results.

473. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Midnapore Canal amounted to Rs. 2,35,841 and Rs. 1,74,643, respectively, as against Rs. 2,18,809 and Rs. 1,27,155 in the preceding year. The balance of nett revenue for the year under review was Rs. 61,198.

The expenditure during the year on extensions and improvements was Rs. 1,228 as compared with Rs. 139 of the previous year. This outlay was incurred mostly on the construction of the Gobindanagar village channel in the Lachmapur subdivision for the more efficient supply of canal water.

The expenditure under the head "Repairs" was Rs. 88,435 compared with Rs. 55,238 of the previous year and is briefly set out below :—

	Rs.
Head works	15,511
Main canal and branches	53,089
Distributaries	16,568
Drainage and protective works	3,267

The increase is due to an expenditure of Rs. 29,532 on the silt clearance of the 8th Reach (Bansbaria to Ulubaria) of the canal.

Hijli Tidal Canal.

Hijli Tidal Canal.

474. There was no outlay chargeable to the capital account of the canal during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 25,50,805. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal amounted to Rs. 68,764 and Rs. 67,820, respectively, as against Rs. 59,155 and Rs. 49,961 in 1917-18. The increase in gross receipts was due to an increase in the transport by canal of rice, which could not be carried by railway on account of restricted supply of goods wagons during the war. The increase in working expenses was due to the silt clearance of Range I of the canal at a cost of Rs. 40,165 and for which purpose the canal was closed to traffic for about a month and a half. The nett balance of revenue for the year under review was Rs. 944 only.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

Capital account.

475. A sum of Rs. 61,716 (direct charges) debitable to the capital account of the canals was expended during the year, inclusive of a credit of Rs. 94,485 on account of the hire of the dredgers "Foyers" and "Alexandra." The principal item of expenditure of the year was that for the improvement of the Gabkhan-Bharani *khal* from Chowkighatta to Jhalakati. This work was completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 7,36,535 for "Works" only.

The expenditure on this work alone during the year amounted to Rs. 1,09,997. The *khal* has now been widened to a bed width of 175 feet, but it will probably be necessary to increase this to 250 feet before long. The expenditure has been justified, as the *khal* is self-maintaining and the deposit of silt is very small. It now replaces the tortuous and silted Angeria creek, on the steamer route from Khulna to Barisal.

A sum of Rs. 24,277 was also spent for excavating by hand a cut between the Kankrabunia *khal* and Channel creek to the south of the Doagra channel in the steamer route. The work was in progress during the year and was very nearly completed. The cut is being made as an experimental measure, and, if found to be self-maintaining, will take the place of the Doagra channel which is rapidly deteriorating.

Navigation receipts.

476. The receipts from navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 4,53,867 as compared with Rs. 3,46,216 in the preceding year. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 4,75,974 and Rs. 3,81,911, respectively, as against Rs. 3,67,290 and Rs. 4,61,129 in 1917-18, the result being a profit of Rs. 94,063 against a deficit of Rs. 93,839 in the preceding year.

The more important items on which expenditure was incurred during the year are briefly noted below :—

Extensions and Improvements—

	Rs
Construction of a sluice at Samukpota at the eastern end of Tolly's Nala	10,081

Maintenance and repairs—

(1) Silt clearance of Tolly's Nala from Chetla Port Commissioners' sluice to Ganga Jowara	11,052
(2) Silt clearance of the Kowrapukur *khal* from Russa to Bageswar	12,530
(3) Silt clearance of the Gabkhan-Bharani *khal*. The dredger "Foyers" was employed on this work and 1,667,060 c. ft. of earth was dredged at a rate of Rs. 7·6 per 1,000 c. ft.	12,947
(4) Dredging shoals at the Attarabanka river. The dredger "Foyers" was employed on this work and 5,146,760 c. ft. of earth was dredged at a rate of Rs. 4·5 per 1,000 c. ft.	23,439

	Rs.
(5) Dredging shoals of the Madhumati river at Patgate and Girishnagar ... ... The dredger "Alexandra" was employed on this work and 8,922,650 c. ft. of earth was dredged at a rate of Rs. 3·2 per 1,000 c. ft.	28,781
(6) Upkeep of the marks and buoys in the Sundarbans steamer route	16,095

Madaripur Bil Route.

Capital account.

477. The expenditure (direct charges) debitable to the capital account of the project was Rs. 3,31,377, of which Rs. 2,79,362 represents the outlay on works. This sum was spent chiefly on (1) improvement of the Lower Kumar River at Charmaguria and easing bends from Fatehpur to Takerhat, and (2) constructing an embankment with sluices along the south bank of the canal. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to end of 1918-19 amounted to Rs. 42,94,807 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 61,19,668. The completion report of the project received the approval of the Secretary of State in June 1919. The construction estimate has been closed, with effect from the 31st March 1917, and the remaining works are being carried out under the rules governing expenditure chargeable to open capital account.

Financial results.

478. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were respectively, Rs. 3,50,251 and Rs. 80,367 against Rs. 3,51,617 and Rs. 88,559 in the year 1917-18. The decrease in working expenses is due to the smaller expenditure necessary during the year, as compared with the previous year, on dredging the Lower Kumar River at Charmaguria.

The more important items of expenditure are given below :—

	Rs.
Dredging the Lower Kumar River at Charmaguria ...	8,828
Protection of sluices, locks and escapes on the bil bund by stone	16,315
Protection of sluices, locks and escapes on the Boltoli and Baniachar	8,945

Orissa Coast Canal.

Orissa Coast Canal.

479. This canal, which is intended for navigation only, lies partly (54·5 miles) in this Presidency and partly in the province of Bihar and Orissa. It has been decided that each Government will deal with the lengths lying within their territorial limits. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year were Rs. 17,098 and Rs. 9,666, respectively, as against Rs. 14,587 and Rs. 31,706 in the previous year. The increase in receipts was due to the diversion of the railway traffic to the canal. The decrease in working expenses was due to the fact that no extensive repairs to the locks, etc., were necessary during the year.

Gaighatta and Baxi Khal.

Gaighatta and Baxi Khal.

480. The collection of tolls on boat traffic was leased out for two years, from 1st April 1917 to 31st March 1919, at a rental of Rs. 3,400 per annum. The rent realised from the lessee during the year was, however, Rs. 1,450, as compared with Rs. 2,387 of the previous year. The falling off was due to remission of rent which had to be granted to the lessee owing to restricted boat navigation on account of the silted up condition of the channel. A sum of Rs. 459 was spent on the upkeep of the khal.

Eden Canals.

Eden Canals

481. The area irrigated from this system of canals was 20,538 acres only as compared with 26,439 and 28,899 acres in the two preceding years. This falling-off in the area irrigated is due to the heavy rainfall in the early part, followed by a severe drought at the end of the monsoon. On account of the early rainfall, leases which had lapsed were not renewed ; and owing to the drought and consequent low supply of water in the Damodar

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river the full area leased could not be irrigated and a sum of Rs. 11,761 of the water-rates was remitted. These conditions cannot be improved until the proposed Damodar Canal project has been sanctioned and a weir constructed across the Damodar River.

The gross revenue derived from this system of canals was Rs. 22,600 during the year under review as compared with Rs. 37,345 and 39,618 in the two previous years. The difference is due to the causes stated in the preceding paragraph.

The expenditure on working expenses amounted to Rs. 52,101 as detailed below :—

	Rs.
New works	12,400
Maintenance and repairs	22,494
Establishment	16,526
Tools and plant	681
Total ...	52,101

as compared with Rs. 27,788 in the preceding year.

The new works taken up and completed comprised the building of menials and subordinates' quarters and the improvement of the supply channel of the Banka River between Jujuti and Kanchannagar. The cost of maintenance and repairs was high, owing to the construction of two sand dams across the river Damodar at Jujuti and Jhanpur, which alone cost Rs. 13,194. These sand dams ensured a final watering of the *kharif* crops and gave a good supply for the early watering of *rabi* crops. Had these dams not been constructed, a very much larger area of *kharif* crops would have suffered considerably.

Improvement of the Bidyadhari River.

Bidyadhari River.

482. Work in connection with the improvement of the river, by creating a spill reservoir for the flood tide, was in progress during the year. An expenditure of Rs. 6,36,971 was incurred to end of the year against the sanctioned revised estimate of Rs. 8,05,515. The operations already undertaken have proved satisfactory, and it is expected that the continuation and extension of the operations will effect further improvement by which the life of the river will probably be prolonged for a number of years.

Investigations.

483. Surveys were continued during the year in connection with projects for mitigating the effects of the Damodar floods. Investigations were carried out in connection with storage reservoirs in the basin of the Damodar and Barakar rivers. Surveys were also carried out in connection with the proposed Damodar project.

The investigations in connection with the storage reservoirs in the catchment area of the Damodar and Barakar rivers are now approaching completion. It is expected that the estimates will be ready in 1921.

The Damodar Irrigation Canal project is now under revision, and it is expected that this project will be completely ready in 1921.

Floods.

484. In the Damodar river there were in all six moderate floods, of which the highest occurred on the 27th August 1918 when the gauge at Edilpur read 17 feet 1 inch. The level was 2 feet 11½ inches lower than the maximum recorded during the flood of 1913. No damage was done to the Damodar left embankment. There was only one flood in the Ajai river, and as the flood lasted for a very short time, no serious damage was done.

In the Cossye division there were no high floods in any of the rivers.

Anti-malarial projects.

485. Works classified under "anti-malarial," which are in charge of the Public Works Department, are in reality drainage schemes undertaken for the purpose of regulating the surface fresh water on the land with the object of serving the double purpose of securing the crops and submerging the land to destroy the breeding grounds of the anopheles mosquito. Given suitable regulating works, complete control of the water can be secured, so that the surplus is drained away and sufficient is retained to suit the requirements of agriculture. The original outlay and cost of upkeep is met from a special

grant under the sanitary head or by recoveries from those benefited under the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act.

During the year under review the Banka anti-malarial project near Burdwan which was taken up in 1917-18 was practically completed, the expenditure incurred being Rs. 72,532 against the estimated cost of Rs. 73,217. Work was also started during the year on (*a*) the Arul Bil scheme in the district of Jessore which is being carried out under the Sanitary Drainage Act, Government contributing Rs. 86,000 thereto ; (*b*) the Saraswati project in the district of Howrah, and (*c*) and (*d*) the Baragachia project and the Monikhali project, both in the district of the 24-Parganas. These three latter schemes are being carried out at the cost of Government. The statement below shows the estimated cost of the schemes and the expenditure incurred thereon to the end of 1918-19 :—

Name of scheme.		Estimated cost.	Expenditure during and to end of 1918-19.
		Rs.	Rs.
Saraswati project	...	1,43,193	18,915
Baragachia project	...	54,439	15,327
Monikhali scheme	...	1,83,481	62,895

SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS.

A tidal survey of the Lower Delta.

486. Gauges were fixed in the various rivers between Calcutta and Barisal and read hourly during daylight hours to ascertain the ranges and timings of the tidal wave and the duration of the flood and ebb currents. The object of these observations is to ascertain the variations in the different rivers. It is well known that the tidal range has increased considerably in the western delta in the last century, due to reclamation of the Sundarbans, with the result that the land has now become relatively low and is becoming more and more difficult to drain. In the Central and Eastern Sundarbans the changes are not so pronounced, and the observations will, when carefully analysed, show what the ultimate effect will be in these parts if the Sundarbans are fully reclaimed. In addition, the survey will show what rivers are likely to remain in good order and how the distribution of the interior drainage should be disposed of, and will give the tidal data which are so important in framing anti-malarial projects. A general exploration of the tidal rivers is also being made and much has been accomplished during the year in ascertaining the weak links and tidal meeting grounds. Various important changes have been traced and, in some cases, further changes can now be forecasted. The survey is a very important one and is being continued for another year. There are no fewer than 100 gauges between Calcutta and the Megna. As the results will be equally important from the point of view of navigation, one-half the cost is being charged to surveys under the anti-malarial head and the other half to the Calcutta and Eastern Canals. The expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 1,916.

So far as it has been obtained, the history of the rivers from the Ganges to the sea face for the last 150 years has been compiled by Mr. C. Addams-Williams, C.I.E., Superintending Engineer, under the title "History of the Rivers in the Gangetic Delta, 1750—1918." In due course this history will be developed, and a chapter on the tidal question added.

Turning to specific cases of investigations, the following works have been carried out during the year:—

(1) *Hallifax cut, Jessore district.*—The conditions at this cut have been kept under observation. The cut was made by the District Board, Jessore, in 1901-02 between the Madhumati and Nabaganga rivers. The cut has since deepened considerably and has also widened, and diverts a large quantity of water from the Madhumati into the Nabaganga, estimated at about 45,000 cusecs. Shoaling in the Madhumati below the cut has now become pronounced, and it is probable that a large expenditure will have to be incurred before long to regulate the supply through the cut, as the shoals now impede navigation and there is a possibility of the Madhumati changing its course. The water from this cut enters the Bhairab above Khulna where the bank near the bazar is being eroded.

(2) *Harihar-Mukteswari project, Jessore district.*—Surveys are in hand.

(3) *Bhairab project, Jessore district.*—Surveys are in hand.

(4) *Jabuna project, Nadia, Jessore and 24-Parganas districts.*—The project is divided into two sections : the larger (No. II) was completely prepared during the year and submitted to Government for sanction. It has since been taken up. Surveys for (No. I), the smaller of the two parts, are still in hand.

(5) *Kodla-Betna project, Jessore district.*—Surveys are in progress.

(6) *Anjona project, Nadia district.*—Surveys completed during the year.

(7) *Bulli Bil project, 24-Parganas.*—Surveys were in progress.

(8) *Baitgachi Gong, 24-Parganas.*—Surveys were in progress.

(9) *Nawi-Sunthi project, 24-Parganas.*—The project was revised and submitted to Government for sanction. It has since been taken in hand.

(10) *Ghea project, Burdwan and Hooghly districts.*—The surveys were put in hand.

(11) *Rankini-Doho project, Burdwan and Hooghly districts.*—Surveys were in progress.

(12) *Amta project, Howrah district.*—The project was revised and submitted to Government. It has since been taken up under the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act.

(13) *Dhunia project, Midnapore district.*—The surveys were in progress.

(14) *Gangakhali-Soadighi project, Midnapore district.*—Surveys were completed. The project was under preparation. The estimates have since been completed, and the project sanctioned, though not taken up yet.

(15) *Amirabad project, Midnapore district.*—The estimates were revised and submitted to Government for sanction. The project has since been taken up.

(16) *Pichaboni project, Midnapore district.*—The estimates have been revised and submitted to Government for sanction. The project has since been taken up.

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Nadia Rivers.

487. The approximate length of the channels comprised in the Nadia Rivers remained the same as in the previous year. These are as detailed below :—

	Miles.
Faracca channel from the Ganges to Biswanathpur ...	25
Bhagirathi river from the Bhagirathi entrance at Biswanathpur to Nadia	132
Bhairab-Jalangi from entrance to Nadia	163½
Mathabhanga from entrance to junction with the Hooghly	136
Hooghly from Nadia to Mathabhanga junction ...	32
	488½

In addition to the above a length of 10 miles of the river Gorai, from its off-take from the Ganges down to Kushtia, and the river Ganges from Rajmahal to Goalundo, a distance of 152 miles, are comprised within the charges of the Nadia Rivers division, but are not included under the head "Nadia Rivers." The Gorai has not been declared under the Canals Act.

No capital account is kept.

The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 19,950 and Rs. 48,074, respectively, as against Rs. 16,667 and Rs. 99,187 in the preceding year. The decrease in working expenses was chiefly under "Establishment" and is due to the allocation of the charges for establishment according to the new method introduced by the Government of India.

A brief description of the rivers comprised in the Nadia Rivers system is given below :—

Bhagirathi River.

488. This river is 157 miles in length from the Faracca off-take down to Nadia, the length below Nadia down to its junction with the river Mathabhanga being known as the Hooghly. The first 25 miles is a *sota* of the

Ganges called the Faracca channel; the next reach of 68 miles from below Biswanathpur to Dadpur is known as the Upper Bhagirathi; and the remaining reach of 64 miles down to Nadia is known as the Lower Bhagirathi. The Lower Bhagirathi is again divided into (*a*) the Upper Reach from Dadpur to Katwa, and (*b*) the Lower Reach from Katwa to Nadia. The Bhagirathi is not now used for navigation by steamers with regular services. On the Upper Bhagirathi ordinary boat traffic was maintained throughout the year up to Azimganj and through traffic to the middle of October 1918. On the Lower Bhagirathi the steamer service commenced from the middle of June 1918 and continued till the middle of October 1918. Boat traffic was maintained throughout the year.

Twenty-three shoals with an aggregate length of 68,000 feet were trained as against 28 and 79,000 feet, respectively, in the previous year.

The minimum depth of water in the river at the end of March 1919 was—

Reach of river.	Least depth of water.			Width of Channel.
	1917.	1918.	1919.	
	Ft. In.	Ft. In.	Ft. In.	
Entrance from Ganges ...	0 3	Dry	Dry	More than 25 feet.
Thence to Garia ...	0 6	...	do.	
Garia to Jangipore ...	0 6	0 4	do.	
Jangipur to Berhampore ...	1 0	1 0	1 0	
Berhampore to Katwa ...	0 9	1 3	1 0	
Katwa to Nadia ...	1 9	2 0	1 6	

489. This river which takes off from the Ganges about 2 miles below Lalgolaghat railway station and falls into the Bhagirathi at Nadia is divided into the three different lengths, viz. :— **Bhairab-Jalangi River.**

(*a*) The Bhairab from the off-take down to Muktearpur.
(*b*) The Upper Jalangi from Muktearpur to Gopinathpur.
(*c*) The Lower Jalangi from Gopinathpur to Nadia.

No steamers plied on this river during the year, but through boat traffic was maintained throughout the whole length from July to the end of October 1918, while small boats plied throughout the year from Swarupganj to Muktearpur. There were altogether 15 shoals trained during the year as against the same number last year.

490. The Mathabhanga River takes off from the Ganges about 5 miles above the village of Jalangi and joins the Hooghly below Chakdah. The length from the off-take to Munshiganj is known as the Upper Mathabhanga and below to the Hooghly junction as the Lower Mathabhanga. The upper reach remained open for through traffic from June to the middle of October 1918, while the lower reach was navigable all the year round for through and local traffic. **Mathabhanga River.**

Two shoals with an aggregate length of 1,300 feet were trained against 3 and 3,100 feet, respectively, in the previous year.

491. The training works in connection with the conservancy of the river Ganges were carried out during the year through the agency of the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited, under Government supervision. Between Rajmahal and Goalundo 6 shoals were trained as against 9 in the previous year. The object of training these shoals by means of bandals is to maintain a navigable channel with 6 feet depth of water. The cost of the season's operations to Government was Rs. 10,113 against Rs. 9,072 in the previous year. **Ganges River between Rajmahal and Goalundo.**

492. Owing to adverse circumstances no dredging operations were done during the year. An attempt was made to improve the entrance channel by means of bandalling only, which was commenced on the 27th September and abandoned on the 10th October 1918. The operations were not successful. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 3,482 against Rs. 4,226 in the previous season. **Entrance to the Bhagirathi River from the Ganges.**

Discharge observations.

493 During the year under review discharge observations were taken of the rivers Bhagirathi, Bhairab-Jalangi and Mathabhanga at a cost of Rs. 10,688 for works only, against Rs. 9,677 of the previous year. The objects of these observations are (*i*) to determine the various sources from which the Hooghly derives its fresh-water supply and (*ii*) to devise a means of improvement in the general *regime* of the river.

Upper Hooghly and its feeder rivers.

494. The report on the Nadia Rivers submitted by Major F. C. Hirst, I.A., Director of Surveys, Bengal, and which was published during the year 1916-17 was still under consideration during the year. The committee appointed in February 1917 to advise Government upon the steps which should be taken to carry out systematic observations of the changes in the Nadia Rivers, and also, if possible, to improve their condition as navigable channels and as feeders for the Lower Hooghly have since submitted their report, and it is now before Government.

Gorai river.

495. The river Gorai takes off from the Ganges about 12 miles below the Hardinge Bridge over the Ganges.

The entrance is not stable but of a shifting character. In 1912 the entrance channel changed to its present position and for some years gradually improved with the result that a much larger volume of water entered and passed down to the lower reaches where the river is called the Madhumati. Since the year 1916-17 considerable changes have taken place at the entrance and a new channel, the Kolar Kole channel, opened out. The changes in the years 1917 and 1918 and the latest survey sections show that the Gorai is likely now to receive the spill of the Ganges instead of a direct current flow. In the Kolar Kole channel there was silting everywhere.

Floods.

496. There were no floods of an extraordinary character in any of the Nadia Rivers during the year.

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

Ganges River at Rampur Boalia.

497. Training works were carried out in the channel of the river Ganges at Rampur Boalia by means of bandalling operations, in order to improve navigation and sanitary conditions and to maintain the water-supply of the town. The operations were successful. The channel was maintained in good condition throughout the year. There was neither erosion of the banks nor stoppage of steamer traffic. The total amount spent on the operation was Rs. 6,112, towards which the Inland Steamer Companies, the District Board and the Municipality contributed Rs. 3,100.

EASTERN CIRCLE.

Dhaleswari and Buriganga Rivers.

498. The training works carried out during the year consisted in—

(*a*) dredging the off-take (from the Jamuna) of the Dhaleswari with dredger "Foyers", and

(*b*) bandalling in the Dhaleswari and Buriganga with the object of forcing a navigable channel for small steamers and boats and for maintenance of a supply of drinking water.

The old off-take of the Dhaleswari across the Sakuntali Char was found to have completely silted up, but a new off-take was found to have opened some 2 miles higher up at Porabari. This promising sign was seized upon and the "Foyers" dredger was sent to dredge and improve the channel in so far as possible. Dredging operations were started on the 8th November 1918 and had to be stopped on the 28th December 1918 owing to the possibility of the dredger being shut in with the falling river.

The operations, aided by the bandalling lower down the rivers, were successful to a certain extent, but the time available for dredging was not sufficient, and it was not possible to dredge the full length of the channel originally demarcated for dredging.

The result was an increased flow of water in the Dhaleswari River throughout the cold and hot weather seasons and possibly an extended period during which navigation was possible.

The total length dredged was 4 miles and the maximum depth of cutting was 15 feet. The cost of dredging operations was Rs. 52,499.

The annual bandalling operations were carried out at a cost of Rs. 17,603; 20 shoals were found to have formed, 14 in the Dhaleswari and 6 in the Buriganga. Of these, 7 in the Dhaleswari and 4 in the Buriganga were trained by means of bandals. In addition, 4 *sâl bulli* spurs were erected at a cost of Rs. 7,042 in the Buriganga. One spur is located in the upper mouth of the river with the object of obtaining a better indraft of water from the Dhaleswari, the other three are located above the upper mouth of the Ati *khal*, with the object of deflecting the current to the right bank of the river, and inducing a greater flow through the Ati *khal*. These latter spurs gave satisfactory results.

Investigations.

499. The surveys started in October 1917 in connection with the conservancy of the rivers Dhaleswari and Buriganga were continued during the year, and the Executive Engineer placed on special duty for the purpose continued the investigation throughout the year. He has since submitted three projects viz., the Tulsi Khali steamer canal, the Sital Lakshya *khal* and the Dolai *khal* improvement scheme. The Tulsi Khali steamer canal is projected to obtain a more direct and secure route from Goalundo to Dacca; and the Sital Lakshya for a similar object between Dacca and Narayanganj.

The distance from Goalundo to Dacca by the proposed Tulsi Khali steamer canal route into the Dhaleswari would be about 60 miles, of which about 30 miles only would be in the main Padma river. The distance from Goalundo to Narayanganj, if the proposed Sital Lakshya channel were also opened out by dredging, would be about 60 miles, of which about 30 miles would be in the main river. The Tulsi Khali route would not only decrease the distance travelled by the mail steamers by about 40 miles between Goalundo and Dacca, but no transhipment by rail would be required, and only 30 miles instead of 70 miles would be in the main Padma river, while the Sital Lakshya channel would shorten the distance and improve the route through Dacca on the Buriganga river to Narayanganj on the Lakshya river.

The Dolai *khal* is designed not only to improve the docking accommodation in Dacca and incidentally the amenities of the city but also to provide a short cut from the north for the traffic coming from the Balu and Lakshya rivers to Dacca.

The three schemes noticed here and which are now under consideration form but a fraction of the investigations and reports of the Executive Engineer.

The expenditure incurred on the survey operations has been Rs. 18,881 up to the end of the year 1918-19.

Embankment and Drainage.

[The Embankment and Drainage Works for 1918-19.]

Expenditure.

500. The expenditure on embankments, including charges for establishment and tools and plant, was Rs. 6,69,593, while that on drainage works amounted to Rs. 4,81,692 during the year.

Length of embankments.

501. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by Government was 1,357 miles and 366 feet showing an increase of 4,040 feet as compared with the length (1,356 miles and 1,606 feet) maintained during the preceding year. This increase of 4,040 feet is made up of (i) a net increase of 3 miles and 562 feet in the length of embankments in the South-Western Circle, and (ii) a decrease of 2 miles and 1,802 feet in the length of the Mahananda embankment at Malda, Schedule D, No. 57 with subsidiary lines in the Northern Circle. The increase in the South-Western Circle is due to (*a*) the inclusion in the list of Takavi embankments under contract of a length of 3 miles and 2,245 feet of the Bistupur zamindari embankment in the district of Midnapore, and (*b*) a reduction of 1,683 feet in the length of the Hijili Sea Dyke, Schedule D, No. 39 as found by re-measurement. The decrease of 2 miles and 1,802 feet in the length of the Mahananda Embankment at Malda, Schedule D, No. 57, is due to a mistake, which appears to have been continuous for many years previously, in regard to the actual

length of the embankment. The actual length has been recently measured and has been found to be 12,119 feet only.

These embankments protect an area of 3,805,199 acres.

Floods and breaches.

502. The year under report was not characterised by any unusual catastrophe in the shape of cyclones and the like; and, as the monsoon was weak, there were no very high floods in the rivers. In the Damodar river there were altogether six floods, of which the highest occurred on the 27th August 1918 when the gauge at Edilpur read 17 feet 1 inch as compared with the highest recorded flood of 20 feet 1 inch in 1913. Flood precautionary measures were very strictly enforced, and necessary arrangements were made to protect the left bank of the Damodar during the flood season. In the Ajai river there was only one flood on the 27th August 1918 when spill water entered the low tract of land through the breaches in the Zamindari embankment between Sagorputul and Baxibazar. The damage was inconsiderable as the duration of the flood was very short. The work of partially closing the breaches in the Zamindari embankment near Sagorputul was commenced during the year, and this, it is expected, will reduce the extent of inundation of a part of the country on the right bank of the river lying to the east of the East Indian Railway Loop Line.

No high floods occurred in the rivers in the Cossye Division during the year.

There were no breaches in any of the embankments in the South-Western and Central Circles.

In the Northern Circle a portion (about 270 feet) of the abandoned portion of the Schedule D Embankment No. 56 at Pathanpur was eroded and carried away, while a length of 2,000 feet in Schedule D Embankment No. 55 at Talaimari was threatened by the river Ganges, the erosion of the river bank having approached to within 10 to 40 feet of the outer toe. A ring bund 900 feet long with crest 2 feet above the average highest flood level of the last ten years was therefore constructed. No actual breach however occurred.

Surveys.

503. The following surveys were carried out during the year :—

A special survey along the Aurora *khal* was commenced and completed during the year.

The survey of the Tamluk and Mahisadal basins in the district of Midnapore was taken up and nearly completed.

Surveys and investigations were continued during the year in connection with the selection of sites for reservoirs, for impounding the flood water of the Damodar and Barakar rivers in the Hazaribagh district within the Province of Bihar and Orissa.

A survey was started during the year of the area inundated by the high floods of the Damodar river. A portion of the country lying between the Arambagh-Champadanga road and a line drawn south-westwards from Lakra was surveyed.

Contour surveys were made during the year of the tract of country in the district of Nadia lying to the west of the Mathabhanga river, and of a portion between the Krishnagar-Berhampore road and the river Bhagirathi.

In connection with the erosion of the river Ganges at Rampur Boalia some cross sections and soundings were taken and recorded during the year.

Works undertaken under the provision of—(a) Bengal Drainage Act VI of 1880.

504. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapur and Barajola drainage works were maintained at a cost of Rs. 10,593 as compared with the average of Rs. 11,300 fixed for their maintenance.

The work in connection with the improvement of the Bidyadhari river, by creating a spill reservoir for the flood tides, was in progress during the year; and an expenditure of Rs. 3,45,768 was incurred during the year. This project is of a different type to the ordinary drainage project and aims at the resuscitation of the Bidyadhari river which discharges the drainage and storm water of the town of Calcutta. This river is really a tidal creek which was kept alive by spill into the Salt Lakes to the east of the town: owing to land reclamation by means of embankments, the spill has been almost entirely cut off and the deterioration of the river, which set in about 20 years ago, had reached the point at which the municipal drains become

surcharged and the lower portion of the town flooded after heavy falls of rain. It was decided to restore to some extent the spill into the lakes in order to induce a scour in the river on the ebb tide. The operations already undertaken have proved satisfactory; and it is expected that by the continuation and extension of the operations a further improvement will be effected and the life of the river prolonged for a number of years.

505. A review of the anti-malarial projects taken up and investigated during the year has already been given in paragraph 23 of the Irrigation and Navigation Annual Administration Report of the year and need not be recapitulated here. (b) Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VII of 1895.

The Banka anti-malarial project taken up during the year 1917-18 was practically completed during the year; work was also started during the year on (*a*) the Arul Bil Scheme in the district of Jessore, which is being carried out under the Sanitary Drainage Act, to which Government are contributing Rs. 86,000, (*b*) the Saraswati project in the district of Howrah, and (*c*) and (*d*) the Baragachia project and the Monikhali scheme in the district of the 24-Parganas. These three latter schemes are being carried out at Government expense.

Surveys were carried out in the districts of Nadia, Murshidabad, Midnapore, 24-Parganas, Hooghly and Howrah districts. A tidal survey of the various rivers in the lower delta between Calcutta and Barisal was also started during the year.

506. The work of constructing a sluice at Mellock in the Midnapore district was taken in hand during the year, the expenditure incurred being Rs. 25,272 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 66,388. (c) Bengal Embankment Act II of 1882.

The investigations and surveys started in October 1917 in connection with the conservancy of the rivers Dhaleswari and Buriganga, and the improvement of the drainage conditions within the area lying between the Dhaleswari and Padma rivers were continued during the year. The Engineer in charge of the investigation has since submitted three projects which are now under examination.

A large number of sluices in Schedule D Embankments were efficiently maintained at the cost of the estates benefited.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Gross Revenue.

Gross Revenue.

507. The following statement shows the gross revenue (*i.e.*, the total of Imperial and Provincial Revenues) for 1918-19 as compared with that of 1917-18 :—

[The figures are in thousands of Rupees.]

Receipts.	1917-18.			1918-19.		
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Principal heads of Revenue—						
I.—Land Revenue ...	1,38,62	1,61,20	2,99,82	1,37,34	1,67,98	3,05,32
II.—Opium ...	4,07,69	...	4,07,69	3,84,16	...	3,84,16
III.—Salt	1,09,13	...	1,09,13	1,11,78	...	1,11,78
IV.—Stamps	1,16,06	1,16,06	2,32,12	1,24,83	1,24,83	2,49,66
V.—Excise	...	1,56,36	1,56,36	...	1,76,64	1,76,64
VI.—Provincial Rates ...	...	1,39	1,39	...	1,12	1,12
VII.—Customs	6,93,42	...	6,93,42	7,60,72	...	7,60,72
VIII.—Income-tax ...	2,35,64	1,03,96	3,39,60	2,38,83	1,12,01	3,50,84
IX.—Forests	...	13,77	13,77	...	19,44	19,44
X.—Registration ...	...	19,04	19,04	...	19,18	19,18
XI.—Tributes	68	...	68	68	...	68
Total ...	17,01,24	5,71,78	22,73,02	17,58,34	6,21,20	23,79,54
XII.—Interest	11,00	6,90	17,90	11,67	5 62	17,29
Receipts by Civil Department—						
XVIA.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	...	11,22	11,22	...	11,24	11,24
XVIB.—Law and Justice—Jails	...	12,02	12,02	...	14,70	14,76
XVII.—Police	...	1,87	1,87	...	2,52	2,52
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage ...	...	10,07	10,07	...	12,30	12,30
XIX.—Education ...	...	9,52	9,52	...	9,83	9,83
XXA.—Medical	...	4,01	4,01	...	4,14	4,14
XXB.—Sanitation ...	...	12	12	...	7	7
XXIA.—Agriculture ...	...	1,22	1,22	...	1,68	1,68
XXIB.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	...	26,35	26,35	...	13,64	13,64
Total ...	...	76,40	76,40	...	70,18	70,18
Miscellaneous—						
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	1,92	57	2,49	1,82	65	2,47
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	...	1,40	1,40	...	1,73	1,73
XXV.—Miscellaneous ...	3,68	5,66	9,34	4,45	6,07	10,52
Total ...	5,60	7,63	13,23	6,27	8,45	14,72
Irrigation—						
XXIX.—Major Works (Direct Receipts.)	1,39	1,39	2,78	1,52	1,52	3,04
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—						
By Civil Department.	22	22	44	25	25	50
By Public Works Department.	4,24	4,24	8,48	4,74	4,74	9,48
Total ...	5,85	5,85	11,70	6,51	6,51	13,02
Buildings and Roads—						
XXXI.—Civil Works—						
By Civil Department.	...	1,39	1,39	...	1,39	1,39
By Public Works Department	1,13	4,79	5,92	1,15	8,40	9,55
Total ...	1,13	6,18	7,31	1,15	9,79	10.94
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.	−11,94	+11,94	...	−11,21	+11,21	...
Grand Total ...	17,12,88	6,86,68	23,99,56	17,72,73	7,32,96	25,05,69

The variations are explained in the entries on Imperial and Provincial Finance.

B.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

508. The following statement shows the Imperial Receipts in 1918-19 as compared with those of 1917-18 :— **Imperial Receipts.**

Major heads.	1917-18.	1918-19.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	1,38,61,707	1,37,34,456	...	1,27,251
II.—Opium	4,07,69,638	3,84,16,208	...	23,53,430
III.—Salt	1,09,13,107	1,11,77,530	2,64,423	...
IV.—Stamps	1,16,05,915	1,24,82,625	8,76,710	...
VII.—Customs	6,93,42,397	7,60,72,059	67,29,662	...
VIII.—Income-tax	2,35,64,045	2,38,83,283	3,19,238	...
XI.—Tributes	67,701	67,701	...	...
XII.—Interest	10,99,934	11,67,282	67,348	...
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	1,91,869	1,81,634	...	10,235
XXV.—Miscellaneous	3,67,802	4,45,261	77,459	...
XXIX.—Irrigation Major Works— Direct receipts (Public Works Department).	1,39,150	1,52,438	13,288	...
XXX.—Irrigation Minor Works and Navigation—				
Civil	22,128	24,941	2,813	...
Public Works Department	4,23,696	4,73,987	50,291	...
XXXI.—Civil Works—Public Works Department.	1,13,621	1,15,112	1,491	...
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.	-11,94,252	-11,21,147	+73,105	...
Total ...	17,12,88,458	17,72,73,370	84,75,828	24,90,916

The important variations shown in the above table were mainly due to the following causes :—*Land Revenue.*—Smaller recoveries of survey charges. *Opium.*—Sale of reduced number of chests at public auctions. *Salt.*—Larger shipments from Liverpool and Spain. *Stamps.*—General improvement in trade, the boom in the share market and the realisation of large administration duties in respect of certain estates. *Customs.*—Improvement of imports of sugar, liquor, hardware and metals. *Income-tax.*—Larger profits earned by jute mills and other companies. *Interest.*—Realisation in April 1918 of the instalment due from the Calcutta Port Fund on 31st March 1918, that date falling on a Sunday. *Miscellaneous.*—Larger collection of freight tax. *Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation—Public Works.*—Due to better navigation receipts.

509. The following statement shows the Imperial expenditure in 1918-19 as compared with those of 1917-18 :— **Imperial Expenditure.**

Major Heads.	1917-18.	1918-19.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	16,53,217	24,49,226	7,96,009	...
2. Assignments and Compensations	1,30,787	1,00,178	...	30,609
3. Land Revenue	17,92,492	18,79,622	87,130	...
4. Opium	29,746	33,383	3,637	...
5. Salt	2,66,828	2,71,632	4,804	...
6. Stamps	3,15,098	3,36,220	21,122	...
9. Customs	13,85,172	13,85 669	497	...
10. Income-tax	94,608	1,08,089	13,481	...
13. Interest on other obligations ...	2,25,163	2,53,811	28,648	...
18. General Administration ...	5,18,795	5,16,769	...	2,026
23. Ecclesiastical	1,81,113	1,92,408	11,295	...
25. Political	5,488	5,184	...	304
26B. Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	2,091	2,150	59	...
27. Territorial and Political Pensions	7,12,113	6,93,011	...	19,102

Major Heads.	1917-18.	1918-19.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
28. Civil Furlough and Absentee Allowance.	600	419	...	181
29. Superannuation Allowance and Pensions.	35,297	71,515	36,218	...
30. Stationery and Printing ...	1,38,591	1,34,921	...	3,670
32. Miscellaneous	1,79,296	2,15,405	36,109	...
33. Famine Relief	...	26,033	26,035	...
35. Protective Irrigation Works ...	403	3,558	3,155	...
42. Irrigation—Major Works—Interest on Debt.	2,02,959	2,03,043	84	...
Irrigation—Major Works—Working Expenses.	85,649	1,14,429	28,780	...
43. Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation (Civil).	789	945	156	...
Litto ditto (P. W. D)	11,71,569	12,97,440	1,25,871	...
45. Civil Works (Civil) ...	5,000	5,000	...	...
Ditto (P. W. D.) ...	8,32,700	11,92,770	3,60,070	...
Total ...	99,65,564	1,14,92,830	15,83,158	55,892

The principal fluctuations are explained as follows :—

Refunds and Drawbacks.—Larger payments of customs refunds. *Assignments and Compensations.*—Smaller payments of malikana. *Land Revenue.*—Larger expenditure on survey and settlement. *Opium.*—Higher freight charges for sending opium to Burma. *Salt.*—Larger payment of ghat muharrir and charandars' fees. *Stamps.*—Larger expenditure on discount and on stamp and plain paper supplied from Central Stores. *Income-tax.*—Revision of establishment and larger expenditure on super-tax establishment. *Interest on other obligations.*—Growth of the General Provident Fund. *Ecclesiastical.*—For salaries of Chaplains. *Territorial and Political Pensions.*—Deaths amongst the recipients of pensions. *Superannuation.*—Payment of pensions under war risk Compensation Scheme. *Miscellaneous.*—Larger expenditure on the movement of coins and notes. *Famine Relief.*—Expenditure in the district of Bankura. *Irrigation—Major Works—Working expenses.*—Larger expenditure on repairs to lock gates and silt clearance of the tidal canal.

Irrigation—Minor Works and *Navigation* (*Public Works Department*).—Larger capital and dredging works in the Midnapore Bil route and larger expenditure for creating a spill in the Bidyadhari river and also for anti-malarial measures. *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department.*—Larger expenditure on the construction of post office and settlement buildings and on illumination charges for the Armistice Celebrations.

Land Revenue.

[*See* Chapter II of this Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Canals.]

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1918-19. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue Accounts.]

Revenue from Customs.

510. The gross revenue from customs (including Rs. 2·74 lakhs paid into district treasuries on account of salt imported into Calcutta) amounted to

Rs. 8,42,83,000 against Rs. 7,80,98,000 in the previous year. Refunds amounted to Rs. 27,68,000 against Rs. 13,83,000, so that the net revenue amounted to Rs. 8,15,15,000, representing an increase of a little over 6 per cent. on the previous year's figures.

The gross import duties amounted to Rs. 591·13 lakhs, of which 97·01 lakhs (including inland collections) were yielded by salt, Rs. 161·28 lakhs by cotton goods, Rs. 87·91 lakhs by sugar and Rs. 34·43 by tobacco. The export duty collections rose from Rs. 221·67 lakhs to Rs. 251·70 lakhs, the excess being contributed mainly by jute (Rs. 29·84).

Net revenue.

511. The net revenue of the Calcutta Custom House amounted to Rs. 8,09,42,849 against Rs. 7,53,49,334 in the previous year, representing an increase of 7·4 per cent. The net income of the subordinate ports increased from Rs. 14,95,958 in 1917-18 to Rs. 22,31,528, owing to heavier receipts in the import duty on salt and larger collections in the export duty on tea, jute and rice.

Cases under the Sea Customs Act.

512. The number of cases of infringement dealt with under the Sea Customs Act were 422 against 423 in the previous year. Of these, 59 cases arose out of notices issued under section 32 of the Sea Customs Act, and in five of these cases goods were taken over by Government. The net profits in the four cases which were disposed of within the year amounted to Rs. 763-8-3. In addition to these, 184 cases of misdeclaration of goods were detected, the penalties imposed amounting to Rs. 1,064.

Cases under the Merchandise Marks Act.

513. There were altogether 745 cases of infringement under the Merchandise Marks Act, against 446 in the previous year. Of these 684 were in respect of false trade description and 60 in respect of piece-goods on which lengths were not properly stamped. The penalties imposed during the year amounted to Rs. 17,484 against Rs. 17,074 in the previous year.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report for the year 1918-19. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue Accounts.]

Administration.

514. There was an increase in the operations under the salt credit system Securities to the extent of Rs. 72,83,000 were deposited during the year as compared with Rs. 54,84,200 in 1917-18. The amount of duty debited during the year under the system was Rs. 1,03,64,573 against Rs. 83,68,422 in the previous year. There were 55 depositors during the year, five of whom closed their accounts, leaving a balance of 50.

Manufacture of salt.

515. Enquiries regarding the manufacture of salt on a commercial scale were continued during the year 1918-19. The manufacture of salt is now permissible in the districts of 24-Parganas, Midnapore, Khulna, Bakarganj and Chittagong, subject to the conditions of a license granted under the authority of the Local Government. A firm in Calcutta has been granted a license for the manufacture of salt in the district of Midnapore and the construction of of the factory is in progress, but it is reported that no salt will be manufactured during the current year.

Imports.

516. The total imports into Calcutta and Chittagong increased by 14·6 per cent. and 63 0 per cent., respectively. There was an increase in imports into Calcutta from the United Kingdom, Port Said and Bombay. There were no imports into Chittagong from the United Kingdom or Spain, except table-salt from the former.

Consumption and prices.

517. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption in this Presidency during the year was 76,51,968 maunds. This quantity excludes 29,82,037 maunds exported by rail, road and river, but includes 568 maunds educed from saltpetre. The average wholesale price per maund of salt, inclusive of duty, was 8 annas 6 pies lower than in the previous year. Owing to larger supplies, it is reported that prices were much below the maximum prices fixed by Government. The average wholesale price per 100 maunds of Liverpool salt in the port of Calcutta, exclusive of duty salt, was Rs. 186-13-4 against Rs. 273-6-4 in the previous year.

Finaancial results.

518. As compared with 1917-18, receipts show an increase of Rs. 2,64.423, or 2·4 per cent. and charges of Rs. 28,523 or 9·2 per cent. The net revenue was

Rs. 1,08,41,264, which was larger than that of the previous year by Rs. 2,35,900, or 2·2 per cent.

Trade in Saltpetre

519. The quantity of salt educed by refinement from saltpetre was 547 maunds as compared with 942 maunds in 1917-18, and the quantity of *sitta* (impure salt) left in the course of refinement was 78 maunds against 191 maunds in the previous year. Five hundred and sixty-eight maunds of educed salt were sold during the year against 696 maunds in 1917-18.

EXCISE.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department, Bengal, 1918-19. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue Accounts.]

Excise Advisory Committees and Licensing Boards.

520. The recommendations of the Advisory Committees in all districts were carefully considered, and effect was given to them in almost all cases. In accordance with these recommendations, 27 shops were abolished and the sites of 63 others changed. On the advice of the Licensing Boards of Calcutta and its suburbs, 22 shops were abolished, 14 sites changed and two new licenses sanctioned.

Revenue.

521. The total excise revenue was Rs. 1,76,38,246 against Rs. 1,56,25,391 for the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 20,12,855. The heads which showed an increase were country spirit (Rs. 13,43,506), wine and spirits, *i.e.*, foreign liquors other than beer, medicated wines and commercial spirits (Rs. 1,96,887), opium (Rs. 1,92,382), *pachwai* (Rs. 1,81,442), hemp drugs (Rs. 91,395) and *tari* (Rs. 21,966). Against this there was a decrease of Rs. 14,897 under the head "commercial spirits" including "medicated wines." As a net result the incidence of excise revenue rose from 5 annas 5 pies to 6 annas 2 pies.

Country Spirit.

522. The system of contract supply was the only system in force during the year. The number of shops decreased by 14, but the consumption increased by 96,386 proof gallons. Consumption increased in 19 districts and decreased in 8. The increase in Calcutta represents the natural tendency towards increased consumption resulting from the facts that prices are now fixed and the malpractices of vendors have been brought under control. Outside Calcutta the increase was considerable in Dacca (9,325 proof gallons), due partly to sale at reduced prices owing to competition among vendors and partly to closer supervision over the shops; in the 24-Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly (29,299, 6,730 and 10,007 proof gallons, respectively), due to the check of dilution, short measures and other malpractices on the part of the vendors, as a result of the introduction of the fixed fee system of settlement, which has brought about a considerable improvement in the personnel of the vendors; in Murshidabad (2,449 proof gallons), in Nadia (943 proof gallons), due in both districts to better control over vendors, and in Burdwan (5,503 proof gallons) owing to the larger employment of labourers in the colliery areas of the Asansol subdivision. The high prices of foreign liquor and the gradual effect of the increased staff and improved efficiency of the department in checking illicit distillation also contributed to the increase in consumption in many districts. The only districts in which the decrease in consumption exceeded 10 per cent. were Noakhali (145 gallons) and Rajshahi (1,512 gallons). In both these districts the decrease is attributed to the high price of foodstuffs and other necessaries. The revenue derived from duty and distillery fees increased by Rs. 11,59,157 and that from license fees by Rs. 1,84,349, the result being a total increase of Rs. 13,43,506.

Tari.

523. Since October 1918, the tree tax system has been introduced in the Sadar and Serampore subdivisions of the Hooghly district and the whole of the Howrah district (with the exception of the areas included in the Calcutta district). Under this system a tax is levied on each tree tapped for the production of fermented *tari* in addition to a vend license fee for each shop which is settled by auction.

The total number of licenses issued for the sale of fermented and fresh *tari* increased from 2,319 to 2,401 and the total receipts from Rs. 4,94,172 to Rs. 5,16,138.

524. The total number of *pachwai* licenses issued was 31,896, as compared with 34,787 in 1917-18. The revenue from retail license fees increased from Rs. 7,91,521 to Rs. 9,75,731. The increase was most marked in Burdwan, Bankura, Birbhum and Hooghly and was due, in the two latter districts, to higher fees obtained at auction, and in Bankura to a more accurate valuation of the shops. The large increase in Burdwan was due to bumper crops. **Pachwai.**

525. The total number of licenses issued for the wholesale and retail sale of potable foreign liquor, exclusive of licenses for the retail sale of medicated wines and commercial spirits, was 602 against 569 in the previous year. The total receipts from license fees amounted to Rs. 2,95,665 against Rs. 2,98,725 in the preceding year, the decrease being due to decreased consumption of foreign liquor which affected the settlement of the shops. The receipts from duty on potable foreign liquor manufactured in India were Rs. 7,97,000 against Rs. 5,97,053 in 1917-18. **Foreign liquor.**

526. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of *ganja* was 1,265, as compared with 1,267 in 1917-18. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 34,79,285 against Rs. 34,18,874 in 1917-18, showing an increase of Rs. 60,411. The total quantity of *ganja* consumed amounted to 1,976 maunds as compared with 1,908 maunds in the previous year. Consumption increased in 16 districts, including all the districts of the Presidency (except the 24-Parganas) and Chittagong Divisions, and decreased in 11. The increase exceeded 10 per cent. in Tippera, Murshidabad, Nadia, Calcutta and Chittagong. The increase was generally due to the fall in the retail price in consequence of the wholesale price having been fixed at Rs. 3 per seer. The only case of a decrease exceeding 10 per cent. was in Dinajpur. In Burdwan and Rangpur the decrease exceeded 3 maunds. The fall in consumption in Burdwan is mainly due to a considerable increase in the retail price following on the increased fees obtained at the settlement, and that in Dinajpur and Rangpur to the continuance of unfavourable economic conditions. The incidence of license fees per seer of *ganja* consumed was Rs. 23·3 and that of duty Rs. 20. The total taxation was Rs. 43·3 per seer as in the previous year. **Ganja.**

527. The total consumption of *bhang* amounted to 641 maunds against 605 maunds in the previous year. The total revenue from license fees and duty amounted to Rs. 1,43,476 as compared with Rs. 1,24,496 in 1917-18. **Bhang.**

528. The number of retail licenses was 30, the same as in the previous year, and the total receipts amounted to Rs. 69,715, as compared with Rs. 52,668 in 1917-18. The revenue from license fees increased by Rs. 9,050 and that from duty by Rs. 7,997. **Charas.**

529. The system under which the issue of opium to retail shops is restricted to the estimated local demand continued in the districts in which it had been enforced previously with the exception of Dinajpur and Malda from which it was withdrawn. It was extended to the whole of the Faridpur district, to the opium shop at Bhairab in Mymensingh, to eight shops in Murshidabad and to four shops in Rajshahi. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of opium was 820, as compared with 819 in 1917-18. The quantity of opium consumed fell from 1,074 maunds 12 seers to 1,027 maunds 16 seers. Consumption decreased in 23 districts and increased in four. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 31,37,329, as compared with Rs. 29,44,947 in 1917-18, an increase of Rs. 1,92,382 or 6·5 per cent., which occurred mostly under the head of Duty. **Opium.**

530. The total number of licenses issued to chemists and druggists for the sale of cocaine was 252, as compared with 227 in 1917-18. Forty-two permits for the possession of cocaine were issued free to managers of hospitals or dispensaries not under Government supervision, of which 20 were for tea-gardens in Jalpaiguri and the remainder for charitable dispensaries in various parts of the Presidency. Thirty-eight permits were issued to qualified medical practitioners and dentists. The total number of arrests made for illicit possession of cocaine was 233 against 238 in the previous year. The illicit trade in cocaine declined to some extent, and there are indications to show that opium is exchanged for cocaine by smugglers. In Calcutta 136 ounces were seized by excise officers and 201 ounces by Customs officers as compared with 204 and 371 ounces, respectively, in the previous year. The **Cocaine**

total quantity seized in Bengal was 23 pounds ½ ounce as compared with 39 pounds 7 ounces and 388 grains in the previous year.

Excise offences. 531. The total number of persons arrested on charges under the excise and opium laws during the year was 6,637, as compared with 6,353 in the previous year; and 5,965 persons were convicted against 5,691.

STAMPS.

[Annual Statistics of the Stamp Department for the year 1918-19. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*)—Finance and Revenue Accounts.]

Revenue. 532. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts rose from Rs. 2,35,02,730 in 1917-18 to Rs. 2,59,26,844 in 1918-19, an increase of 10·3 per cent. The increase occurred both in judicial and non-judicial stamps. The charges during the year amounted to Rs. 5,72,123, against Rs. 5,72,886 in 1917-18.

Judicial stamps. 533. The sale-proceeds from Court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) rose from Rs. 1,54,64,461 in 1917-18 to Rs. 1,66,54,002. The increase occurred in all the divisions except the Dacca Division.

Non-judicial stamps. 534. The receipts from the sale of non-judicial stamps rose from Rs. 69,66,241 in 1917-18 to Rs. 82,03,975, showing an increase of Rs. 12,37,734 which was shared by all the divisions.

Sale of stamps. 535. The number of vendors who held licenses to sell stamps during the year 1918-19 was 5,234 against 5,311 in 1917-18. and the amount of discount allowed to such vendors increased from Rs. 3,44,886 in 1917-18 to Rs. 3,59,744.

Deficient duty. 536. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied under section 35 of Act II of 1899 fell from 2,280 in 1917-18 to 2,128, and the amount of duty and penalty realised from Rs. 16,264 to Rs. 13,946. The total number of cases decided by Revenue Courts under sections 32, 37, 40, 41 of the Act fell from 3,014 in 1917-18 to 2,897, but the amount of duty and penalty realised rose from Rs. 58,446 to Rs. 71,330, the increase being greatest in Calcutta (Rs. 15,718).

Prosecutions under the Stamp Act. 537. The number of cases instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 219, against 272 in the preceding year, while 242 persons were brought to trial and 232 persons convicted against 305 and 289, respectively. The fines imposed fell from Rs. 3,415 in 1917-18 to Rs. 2,227. The amount of rewards paid to informers was Rs. 1,295 against Rs. 1,079 in the previous year.

Working of section 19H of the Court Fees Act. 538. Of the cases of valuation of estates for the issue of probate and letters of administration reported during 1918-19, including those pending at the beginning of the year, 63·9 per cent. were completely enquired into, against 70·6 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage borne by the deficit duty required to the amount originally realised was 12·9 per cent. against 12·2 per cent. in the previous year.

INCOME-TAX.

[Statistical information regarding the Income-tax Department for the year 1918-19. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*).—Finance and Revenue Accounts.]

Financial result. 539. The new Income-tax Act (VII of 1918) came into force on the 1st April 1918. The receipts under the head "Income-tax" during the year 1918-19 were Rs. 2,23,03,322 against Rs. 2,07,40,392 in 1917-18, showing an increase of 7·5 per cent.

Collection. 540. The income-tax collections made by district officers for the year 1918-19 were Rs. 1,92,69,365 distributed as follows under the heads named below:—

	Rs.
Salaries, pensions, annuities and gratuities ...	18,22,810
Interest on securities	4,05,890
Business and other sources	1,70,40,665
Total ...	1,92,69,365

Besides the collections shown above, there were collections on account of arrears, amounting to Rs. 22,13,667, penalties and miscellaneous receipts, Rs. 15,141 and Rs. 10,112, respectively, as well as excess collections, Rs. 6,174.

541. The total number of persons finally assessed by District Officers in 1918-19 and the final demand on account of tax showed an increase of 3·3 and 3·4 per cent., respectively, over the figures of 1917-18. **Assessment.**

542. Outside Calcutta only one person in every 1,145 of the population paid income-tax, and the average amount paid by each was Rs. 75. In Calcutta the proportion was one person in 46 and the average amount paid by each was Rs. 698. **Incidence of tax.**

Forest Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Forests.]

C.—Revenue and Finance other than Imperial.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

543. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of provincial services for 1918-19 as compared with those of 1917-18 :— **Receipts and expenditure.**

(The figures are in thousands of rupees.)

Receipts.	Actuals.		Expenditure.	Actuals.	
	1917-18.	1918-19.		1917-18.	1918-19.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	3,39,64	3,67,65	1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	2,43	2,29
			2. Assignments and Compensation ...	76	1,39
I.—Land Revenue	1,61,20	1,67,98	3. Land Revenue	34,94	39,38
IV.—Stamps	1,16,06	1,24,83	6. Stamps	3,15	3,36
V.—Excise	1,56,36	1,76,64	7. Excise	10,00	10,47
VI.—Provincial Rates	1,39	1,12	10. Income-tax	87	98
VIII.—Income-tax	1,03,96	1,12,01	11. Forest	7,39	8,26
IX.—Forest	13,77	19,44	12. Registration	11,41	11,34
X.—Registration	19,04	19,18	13. Interest on Ordinary Debt ...	4,72	4,55
XII.—Interest	6,90	5,62	18. General Administration ...	25,84	25,93
XVIA.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law.	11,22	11,24	19A. Law and Justice—Courts of Law ...	1,00,09	1,04,00
			19B. Ditto Jails ...	30,35	37,71
XVIB.—Law and Justice—Jails ...	12,02	14,76	20. Police	1,23 13	1,32,17
XVII.—Police	1,87	2,-2	21. Ports and Pilotage	11,60	15,09
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	10,07	12,30	22. Education	80,92	86,12
XIX.—Education	9,52	9,83	24A. Medical	28,04	28,99
XXA.—Medical	4,01	4,14	24B. Sanitation	4,69	7,71
XXB.—Sanitation	12	7	25. Political	2,80	2,87
XXIA.—Agriculture	1,22	1,68	26A. Agriculture	11,71	14,25
XXIB.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	26,35	13,64	26B. Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	5,55	23,44
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	57	65	29. Superannuation, etc.	33,76	34,96
			30. Stationery and Printing ...	13,74	13,73
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,40	173	32. Miscellaneous	3,25	6,94
XXV.—Miscellaneous	5,66	6,07	33. Famine Relief	...	9
XXIX.—Major Works, Direct Receipts, Public Works.	1,39	1,52	36. Reduction or avoidance of Debt ...	...	...
			42. Major Works—Interest on Debt ...	1,74	1,74
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—			42. Ditto Working Expenses—Public Works.	86	1,14
Civil	22	25			
Public Works	4,24	4,74	43. Minor Works and Navigation—		
XXXI.—Civil Works—			Civil	1	1
Civil	1,39	1,39	Public Works	11,71	12,97
Public Works	4,79	8,40	45. Civil Works—		
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.	+11,94	+11,21	Civil	12,25	11,42
			Ditto Public Works ...	77,96	92,19
Total ...	6,86,68	7,32,96	Total ...	6,58,67	7,35,49
			Closing balance ...	3,67,65	3,65,12
Grand Total ...	10,26,32	11,00,61	Grand Total ...	10,26,32	11,00,61

544. The increase under *Land Revenue* was due mainly to arrear collections and to the instalments of March 1918 having been realised in April 1918, the kist day in the former month having fallen during the Easter holidays. The increase under the heads *Stamps*, *Income-tax* and *Irrigation*, which are divided heads, have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The large increase under *Excise* was mainly the result of greater consumption of country spirit and of larger issues of Indian-made foreign liquor. The decrease under *Provincial Rates* was due to the fact that the actuals of 1917-18 included recoveries of arrears. The improvement under **Receipts.**

Forests was due to the supply of timber to the Munitions Board and that under *Registration* was due to the effects of high prices. The decrease under *Interest* was the result of smaller loans to local funds. The increase under *Jails* was on account of larger sales of manufactured articles, and that under *Police* was due to compensation on account of the launches "Juliet" and "Miranda," lent to the Military Department for service in Mesopotamia. The improvement under *Ports and Pilotage* was due to larger pilotage receipts and to compensation received from the Military Department on account of the vessels "Lady Fraser" and "Fraser", while that under *Education* and *Medical* was due to increased school fees. The decrease under *Sanitation* was due to the smaller contribution from the Indian Research Institution for hookworm investigation, while the increase under *Agriculture* was for expansion of experimental cultivation. The large decrease under *Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments* was due to a reduction in the sale of quinine to the Military Department. The increase under *Stationery and Printing* was due to larger sales of Government publications, and that under *Miscellaneous* was from fees for Government audit. The sale of the Calcutta Police Hospital at Amherst Street caused the increase under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department.*

Expenditure.

545. The decrease under *Refunds and Drawbacks* was due to smaller payments of excise refunds; while the increase under *Assignments and Compensations* was caused by larger payment of excise compensation to the Bhutan Durbar for the removal of liquor shops from the borders of the State. The expenditure in connection with the development of Kalimpong and the payment of war allowance to menials led to the large increase under *Land Revenue.* The gradual reorganisation of the Excise Department caused the increase under *Excise*, and the larger expenditure in connection with the supply of timber to the Munitions Board mainly contributed to the increase under *Forests.* The decrease under *Registration* was due to smaller expenditure on temporary establishment, and that under *Interest on ordinary Debt* was due to a reduction in outstanding loans. The increase under *General Administration* was due chiefly to the fact that His Excellency the Governor drew his salary for 11 months only during 1917-18 and for 13 months in 1918-19. The increase under *Law and Justice—Courts of Law* is attributable to larger expenditure on account of fees to pleaders and for the payment of war allowances to menials. The increase under *Jails* was mainly due to larger purchase of raw materials and also to increased expenditure on dietary charges and clothing and bedding of prisoners as a result of the high price of food grains and cotton goods. The organisation of the Police Force led to the increase under *Police.* The increase under *Ports and Pilotage* was mainly due to belated recoveries by the Agent for Government Consignments. The larger expenditure in support of local schools and on grants-in-aid from Imperial grants mainly accounted for the increase under *Education.* The increase under *Medical* occurred under "Medical Colleges and Schools" as a result of increased house-rent and other allowances. The larger expenditure on schemes of sanitary improvement led to the increase under *Sanitation.* The increase under *Political* was caused by larger expenditure on account of allowances to détenus under the Defence of India Act. The charge under *Agriculture* rose with the expansion of experimental farms and other demonstrations and the progress of the Co-operative Department. The increase under *Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments* was due to the purchase of quinine from Java and larger expenditure on the development of industries, while that under *Superannuation* is attributable to the growth of pensionary charges and increased expenditure on account of the commuted value of pensions. The remission of the loan of Rs. 3,00,000 granted to the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca and the expenditure in connection with the Bengal Publicity Board led to the increase under *Miscellaneous.* The expenditure under *Famine Relief* related to the charges in the district of Bankura. The decrease under *Civil Works in charge of the Civil Department* was due to smaller grants to District Boards, while the increase under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* is mainly attributable to larger expenditure on the Medical College Hospital and in connection with the partition of the Mymensingh District.

Local Funds.

[Reports on Local Funds for the year 1918-19.]

546. The table below shows the actual receipts and charges and the opening and closing balances of the different Local Funds in the Province for the year 1918-19 :— Balance.

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Charges.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	31,64,755	1,16,56,365	1,48,21,120	1,11,75,084	36,46,036
District Road Fund, Darjeeling	75,784	78,501	1,54,285	58,069	96,216
Union Funds—					
Birbhum	1,504	6,920	8,424	6,742	1,682
Burdwan	538	303	841	422	419
Midnapore	1,936	4,750	6,686	5,120	1,566
Jessore	2,509	10,361	12,870	8,883	3,987
Khulna	1,704	3,453	5,157	4,193	964
Murshidabad	330	3,782	4,112	2,780	1,332
Nadia	1,639	1,073	2,712	1,543	1,169
Faridpur	5,759	22,221	27,980	26,779	1,201
Dacca	327	5,015	5,342	4,292	1,059
Total ...	16,246	57,878	74,124	60,754	13,370
Cantonment Funds—					
Alipore	614	2,181	2,795	2,310	485
Barrackpore	11,283	62,386	73,669	60,102	13,567
Dum-Dum	3,052	22,348	25,400	20,026	5,374
Jalapahar	359	10,141	10,500	9,724	776
Lebong	3,929	5,893	9,822	5,751	4,071
Takdah	1,457	5,897	7,354	6,333	1,021
Total ...	20,694	1,08,846	1,29,540	1,04,246	25,294
Town and Bazar Funds—					
Chittagong Hill Tracts Bazar Fund.	1,048	8,312	9,360	6,974	2,386
Western Duars Market Fund, Jalpaiguri.	34,202	48,357	82,559	47,704	34,855
Total ...	35,250	56,669	91,919	54,678	37,241
Police Funds—					
District Chaukidari Reward Funds.	1,02,804	87,443	1,90,247	92,836	97,411
Fire Brigade Fund ...	96,513	2,61,782	3,58,295	2,71,109	87,186
Foundling Asylum Fund ...	31	3,419	3,450	3,417	33
Total ...	1,99,348	3,52,644	5,51,992	3,67,362	1,84,630
Marine Funds—					
Hospital Port Dues (Calcutta).	-7,474	92,733	85,259	83,168	2,091
Hospital Port Dues (Chittagong).	-4,357	...	4,357	4,357	...
Total ...	-3,117	92,733	89,616	87,525	2,091
Education Funds—					
The Presidency College Graduate Scholarship Fund.	2,843	4,752	7,595	4,285	3,310
Durga Charan Laha's Fund	...	3,134	3,134	3,134	...
Total ...	2,843	7,886	10,729	7,419	3,310

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Charges.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Medical and Charitable Funds—					
Pilgrim Lodging House Funds.	6,492	6,195	12 687	8,651	4,036
Asansol Mines Board of Health.	48,721	66,631	1,15,352	46,172	69,180
Chittagong General Hospital Fund.	451	23,619	24,070	23,736	334
Imambara Hospital Fund ...	4,191	32,519	36 710	32,842	3,868
Bengal Famine Orphan Fund.	10,281	1,222	11,503	...	11,503
Joygobinda Laha's Fund	33,516	4,831	38,347	27,000	11,347
Ram Lal Mukherjee's Endowment Fund.	6,926	1,750	8,676	3,000	5,676
Total ...	1,10,578	1,36,767	2,47,345	1,41,401	1,05,944
Public Works Fund—					
Darjeeling Improvement Fund.	91,775	1,31,579	2,23,354	1,20,134	1,03,220
Miscellaneous Funds—					
Steam Boiler Inspection Fund.	25,226	1,27,220	1,52,436	87,307	65,139
Zoological Garden Fund ...	19,390	86,849	1,06,231	71,772	34,459
Mohsin Endowment Fund	15,829	1,00,203	1,16,032	94,536	21,496
Christian Burial Board Fund	6,528	44,166	50,694	34,458	16,236
Muhammadan Burial Board Fund.	859	2,300	3,159	2,534	625
Syedpur Trust Estate Fund	9,090	2,24,902	2,33,992	2,00,964	33,028
Boinchee Trust Estate Fund	1,364	45,969	47,333	44,595	2,738
Total ...	78,286	6,31,601	7,09,887	5,36,166	1,73,721
Grand Total ...	37,92,442	1,33,11,469	1,71,03,911	1,27,12,838	43,91,073

The Kalia Union Fund in the district of Jessore ceased to exist. The aggregate receipts of the District Funds were much higher than those obtained in the preceding year, and the charges came up to the receipts indicating that the funds were endeavouring to utilise their available resources to the full extent.

Grants.

547. The Cantonment Funds received the following grants from the Military Department :—

	Rs.
Alipore	2,181
Barrackpore	3,611
Jalapahar	4,969
Takdah	2,735

The Hospital Port Dues Fund, Calcutta, though it opened with a deficit balance, recovered on account of the credit of Rs. 7,000 granted as compensation for the use of the motor launch " Eden " lent for service in Mesopotamia. The receipts also improved on account of increase in the rate of Dues. The Hospital Port Dues Fund, Chittagong, severed its banking connection with the Government Treasury and transferred its accounts to the local branch of the Bank of Bengal.

A sum of Rs. 25,000 was invested in 5½ per cent. War Bond out of the balance of the Joygobinda Laha's Fund and Rs. 2,000 was given towards the relief of distress in Tippera and Rs. 4,000 in Bankura. Similar grants were also given from the Ram Lal Mukherjee's Endowment Fund for relief purposes in Tippera (Rs. 3,000) and Bankura (Rs. 2,000). The Zoological Garden Fund received the usual contribution of Rs. 20,000 from Government, and the Muhammadan Burial Board Fund was also given a grant of Rs. 2,300. A 5½ per cent. War Bond for Rs. 3,000 was purchased from the balances of the Christian Burial Board Fund.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1918-19.]

Rate.

548. Except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the Cess Act is not in force, the road and public works cesses continued to be levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the valuation of lands and annual net profits of mines and other immovable properties.

Demand and collection.

549. The current demand of land revenue for the cess-paying districts, excluding municipal areas, was Rs. 2,79,12,627, and the valuation or gross rental on which the cesses are based amounted to Rs. 12,85,95,185. The total land revenue thus represents about 21·7 per cent. of the rental. The total cess demand was Rs. 80,95,767, including arrears (Rs. 11,03,426), and the total collections Rs. 69,01,951. The current demand showed an increase of Rs. 77,245 over that of the preceding year. This increase was due to the valuation and revaluation proceedings and was mainly contributed by the districts of Rajshahi (Rs. 65,937) and Noakhali (Rs. 9,943). The percentage of collections rose from 97·7 to 98·7, while that of the outstanding balance on the total demands fell slightly from 14·1 to 13·9. The remissions aggregated Rs. 67,224, of which a sum of Rs. 66,290 was granted in the district of Burdwan alone, owing chiefly to the revision of assessment of coal mines under Chapter V of the Cess Act. No arrears were barred by limitation in any of the districts during the year.

Working of the certificate procedure.

550. The total number of certificates filed for the realisation of cesses rose from 44,209 in 1917-18 to 50,854 during the year. There was a noticeable increase in the number of institutions in Chittagong (1,886), Dacca (1,140) and the 24-Parganas (1,072). The marked increase in Chittagong was reported to be principally due to a large number of certificates having been instituted for petty arrears. The total number of certificates for disposal, including those (10,478) pending from the preceding year, came to 61,332, of which 45,581 were disposed of and 15,751 were left pending at the close of the year. The increase in the number of pending cases is said to be due to the large number of institutions, many of which were filed in the last quarter of the year. The number of cases pending for more than six months was 1,138 for which Hooghly (174), Burdwan (167), Chittagong (115) and Dacca (102) are mainly responsible. Necessary action is being taken by the Collectors concerned to reduce the number. Arrears of cesses were recovered in 12,330 cases on the mere issue of the notice of demand and in 28,976 cases on the issue of notices for the attachment of property, movable and immovable, while recourse had to be taken to actual sales only in 585 cases, against 1,448 in the previous year, out of a total of 61,332 cases for disposal.

Valuations and revaluations.

551. Revaluations on a large scale under the control of the Collector were in progress during the year in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Midnapore, Mymensingh and Bakarganj. Revaluations conducted by the Settlement Department were also in progress in the entire district of Rajshahi and in 2,700 estates (revised figures) in Noakhali. The assessment of coal-mines in the district of Burdwan and of certain Gazari forests in Dacca was, as usual, revised under Part II, Chapter V of the Cess Act.

Municipal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter III of this Report—Municipal Administration.]

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[The Reports of the Sanitary Commissioner for the year 1918. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area Population and Public Health.]

General results.

552. The outstanding feature of the year under review was the widespread mortality caused by the severe epidemic of influenza which swept in two distinct waves over the Presidency, and left behind a disastrous aftermath of minor ailments and impaired national vitality. Appearing first in a mild form in the summer months, it spread rapidly over the province, subsided and seemed to have disappeared, and then broke out again in an infinitely more virulent and dangerous form in the autumn. The mortality from influenza is estimated at 350,000 to 400,000 deaths.

Birth-rate.

553. The provincial birth-rate which rose from 31·89 per mille in 1916 to 35·91 in 1917 fell to 32·9 per mille in the year under review: the actual decrease in births, in which all districts except Bakarganj, Khulna, Tippera and Bankura shared, was 138,738. The decline was common to all the provinces of India except Assam, and is ascribed to the general unhealthiness of the year coupled with unsatisfactory economic conditions.

Death-rate.

554. The provincial death-rate for 1918 was 38·1 per mille, as compared with 26·2 of the preceding year and 29·5, the average of the previous quinquennium, the actual mortality being 539,822 more than in 1917. In 1917, the highest death-rate occurred in the district of Darjeeling (38·6 per mille), but in the year under review Murshidabad returned the highest rate (58·3), while in four other districts (Nadia, Darjeeling, Burdwan and Jalpaiguri) the rate was over 50 per mille. Moreover, in every other district the mortality was greater than in the previous year. Among the towns of Bengal, Ramjibanpur in Midnapore returned the enormous rate of 69·1 per mille, while Kurseong and eight other towns earned the unenviable notoriety of a mortality of over 44 per mille. Though there was a slight rise in the mortality under practically every head, *e.g.*, cholera, small-pox, respiratory diseases, dysentery and diarrhœa, the enormously augmented death roll was due largely to malaria of a severe type, but more particularly to the appalling ravages of influenza. The increase over the whole province, large as it is, nevertheless compares favourably with the increase in other provinces.

Infant mortality.

555. Compared with the previous year, infant mortality was higher everywhere, being over 20 per cent. of the births in 22 districts and below 20 in 5 districts, whereas in the previous year the higher rate was reached in only 13 districts and the lower rate returned from 14. The highest ratio (30·7) was returned by Burdwan, which was closely followed by Birbhum with 30·1, Nadia with 29·6 and Murshidabad with 28·3. Calcutta, which returned the highest ratio last year (23·92), comes next with 28·1. The problem is one of considerable complexity. In many places good cow's milk is not easily procurable, mothers themselves are ill-nourished and trained midwives are rare. Poverty and ignorance are responsible for a great deal of the enormous waste of infant life, and social and economic conditions hamper the introduction of remedial measures. A representative committee is now considering what steps should be taken to promote child welfare and reduce infantile mortality, and it is hoped that its deliberations will facilitate a solution of the problem.

Verification of Vital statistics.

556. The Sanitary Commissioner remarks that the generally lower birth-rate obtaining in towns when compared with the adjoining rural areas is largely due to defective registration. Although many municipalities have introduced a system of rewards to informers and are enforcing the penal clauses of the Compulsory Registration Act with greater strictness, the attention paid to registration of vital occurrences is still inadequate.

Some improvement is, however, noticeable. The proportion of omissions brought to light as a result of the usual verification by inspectors and sub-inspectors was 2·9 per cent. of births as against 3·3 last year, and 2·2 of deaths as against 2·3. It is notorious that, owing to the ignorance of the reporting agency, confusion as to the causes of death occurs to a large extent, thus vitiating the statistics of a particular disease.

An improvement of the system of registration is a matter of considerable importance from the point of view of sanitary administration, and though various attempts have been made to ensure correct registration the result is far from satisfactory. Investigation has shown that in all probability the reported birth and death rates are from 10 to 15 per mille below the actual figures.

Cholera.

557. The mortality from cholera, which was the lowest on record in 1917, again increased, the deaths during 1918 amounting to 82,379 as against 45,021 of the preceding year and an average of 82,932 during the previous quinquennium. No district was entirely free from its ravages and out of 490 registering circles only 6 towns and 9 rural areas escaped, against 10 and 7 in 1917. The incidence of the disease was highest in Noakhali where the death-rate rose from ·7 in 1917 to 5·0 during the year under review, while, as before, the lowest rate was recorded in Darjeeling. The banks of rivers, tanks and *khals* which are the principal sources of water-supply, both for drinking and domestic purposes, are always subject to gross fæcal pollution, and cholera consequently tends to become epidemic in a locality as soon as the infection has been introduced, unless steps are taken to stop the use of polluted water-supplies. The Mines Board of Health at Asansol has proved conclusively that no very elaborate organisation is required to control cholera. Early notification of its outbreak, the immediate investigation of the source of infection, and the draining or closing of a polluted water-supply require no very elaborate or costly organization, and the creation of an adequate public health staff should render possible the complete control of cholera as a dangerous epidemic disease.

Plague.

558. The total number of deaths was 239. As usual the disease was confined almost entirely to Calcutta (where 210 deaths occurred) and its suburbs. The Presidency remained entirely free of plague during September and November.

Fever.

559. The most lamentable feature of the sanitary history of the year was a large increase in the mortality from febrile diseases, due mainly to the epidemic of influenza. The total number of deaths amounted to 1,357,906 as compared with 882,768 in 1917 and 976,679, the quinquennial average. Of this total the Sanitary Commissioner calculates that 365,158 deaths must have been due to influenza. The first indication of this disease in Bengal was received in June and it was recognised almost simultaneously in Calcutta and in a number of other towns in the 24-Parganas. It spread rapidly along railway and steamer routes, employés on the docks, on the railways and in the postal services and traders being the earliest victims. Calcutta appears to have been the main disseminating centre, and the extraordinary rapidity of its spread was undoubtedly due to the relatively good railway communications of the province. The first epidemic outbreak, lasting about 6 weeks, was marked by the absence of complications and the fact that it was chiefly confined to towns. The second epidemic outbreak occurred about the middle of September. It spread more slowly than the first, but was much more serious, being characterized by the frequency of dangerous respiratory and other complications, which resulted in a high mortality. Towns and villages suffered alike, but on the whole the mortality was greater in rural than in urban areas. The Burdwan Division appears to have suffered most severely, the Chittagong Division coming next, followed by the Presidency Division. The Rajshahi Division, with the exception of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, and the Dacca Division appear to have escaped fairly lightly in comparison. The incidence of the disease also varied greatly among different classes of the population. In general, females suffered more severely than males, while children under ten and old people suffered less severely than young adults. Owing to the sudden onset and rapid spread of the epidemic little could be done to check its ravages, and both the medical and the

sanitary organizations were powerless to devise measures adequate to the occasion. Moreover, the lack of knowledge of any real specific against the disease rendered efficient general treatment impossible.

The increase in mortality figures under the head "fever" was shared by both urban and rural areas. In some parts of Nadia and Murshidabad, the mortality was over 77 per mille. Taken by districts, Murshidabad headed the list with a return of 48·9, followed by Nadia, Birbhum, Jalpaiguri, Burdwan, Darjeeling and Bankura, in all of which the mortality was over 40 per mille. In only three districts was the death-rate below 20 per mille. It is interesting to note that Calcutta returned the smallest rate from this cause, namely, 6·7 per mille, although this was higher than the figures of the two previous years (3·3 and 3·2 per mille, respectively).

Malaria.

560. Deductions regarding the effects of the anti-malarial schemes are largely vitiated by the abnormal returns, for which the influenza epidemic was responsible.

It is encouraging to note that several localities have undertaken special measures for the prevention of malaria on lines laid down by the Sanitary Commissioner. Excellent results as regards reduction of malaria have been reported to have followed upon the construction of the drainage scheme at Tangail, which is based largely upon the "flood and flush" principles. As a part of the compaign against malaria may be mentioned the three large schemes of sanitary drainage, viz., the Arool Bhil, the Jabuna and the Nawi and Sunthi schemes, which have been undertaken with funds contributed by District Boards and Government.

Several causes conduced to a serious decrease in the amount of quinine issued by the Juvenile Jail. In the first place, the prohibition of export from Java led to a rise in the market price of quinine, and it was found that profiteers were purchasing Government quinine in large quantities with the object of reselling it at a large profit. It was, therefore, decided to raise the retail price of the tubes of quinine tablets and to limit the amount sold to any single person. Again serious thefts and defalcations were discovered which in previous years had served to swell the yearly issues from the Juvenile Jail. A third serious cause of the falling off in the issue of Government quinine was the large trade in spurious quinine tablets. These tablets, while containing only about one-fifth of a grain of quinine, are so manufactured as to appear identical with the Government tablets which contain four grains of the drug. Investigation by the police brought to light the fact that numerous factories for the manufacture of these tablets had been established both in Calcutta and in various parts of the mufassal.

Hookworm nquiry.

561. In the resolution reviewing the report of 1917 attention was drawn to the fact that an examination of prisoners in fourteen jails of the Presidency showed a high degree of hookworm infestation in the districts concerned. Further enquiries have merely confirmed this view and revealed the fact that the disease is as widespread as it is unsuspected. In September 1918 His Excellency the Governor addressed a letter to the President of the Sanitary Board pointing out—

(1) that a very large percentage of the population of Bengal, which may be as much as 80, representing a total of approximately 36 million persons, is infected with hookworm;
(2) that even in cases of mild infection it is responsible for ill effects, such as lowered vitality, anæmia, inertia, etc.;
(3) that the disease can be cured cheaply and effectively; but that
(4) it can be prevented (and consequently extirpated) only by ridding an infected soil of infection; and
(5) that this can be brought about only by means of a wide diffusion of knowledge as to the nature and causes of the disease, followed by a revolutionary change in the sanitary habits of the people.

Towards the end of the year a conference of representatives of District Boards, of the tea, jute and coal industries and other interests was called together at Government House to devise measures against the disease, when His Excellency the Governor delivered an address, after which certain draft resolutions were adopted, recommending the appointment of three Deputy

Sanitary Commissioners with the necessary staff for the introduction and supervision of hookworm operations in the coal area, tea gardens and the mills and works near Calcutta, and railways and certain rural areas. These recommendations have since been given effect to.

562. The report of the committee appointed to consider the sanitary organization of the port of Calcutta, with special reference to the prevention of yellow fever, was received during the year, together with a draft bill. The bill has since been revised and submitted to the Government of India for sanction. **Stegomyia enquiry.**

Emigration.

INLAND EMIGRATION.

[The Reports on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901), for the year ending the 30th June 1919, submitted by the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, and the District and Assistant Superintendents of Emigration.]

563. The only administrative change of importance introduced during the year under review was the discontinuance of the submission to District Magistrates of a monthly list of emigrants engaged by garden sardars. The large and unprecedented increase in the number of emigrants despatched to the labour districts was the most marked feature of the year. **Administrative measures.**

564. One thousand five hundred and twenty-two garden-sardars (including 353 sardarnis) were employed during the year in this Presidency as against 640 (including 190 sardarnis) in the year 1917-18. All of them worked under the control of duly licensed local agents. The number of local agents' licences issued during the year was 6, or one less than in the previous year. Recruiting operations were conducted in the districts of Burdwan, Midnapore, Bankura and Birbhum, where 2,364 emigrants were recruited during 1918-19 as against 508 in the preceding year. The largest number of emigrants went from the districts of Midnapore, Bankura and Burdwan, viz., 1,458, 701 and 146, respectively. No criminal case connected with emigration was reported during the year 1918-19. **Recruitment and recruiting agencies.**

565. The total number of emigrants from Bengal and other provinces who embarked during the year at Goalundo was 119,883 as compared with 9,808 in the previous year, the increase being attributed partly to improved and more elaborate recruiting organisation made by the tea industry and partly to the scarcity and high prices of food-stuffs in the recruiting districts. The poor health and lowered physical condition of the emigrants and the abnormally large numbers in which they were proceeding to the labour districts resulted in a serious outbreak of cholera and influenza among them. The rush of emigrants to the port of embarkation was unprecedented during the months of January and February 1919, when the number of admissions to the Goalundo charitable hospital was highest, the number of sick emigrants seeking admission rising to 268 on the 13th February 1919. This hospital which had only 23 beds was suddenly called upon to accommodate on an average 175 patients daily. The dislocation of steamer traffic and railway arrangements aggravated the situation, the accommodation in the rest-houses at Goalundo being quite insufficient to accommodate the large number of emigrants detained there on account of want of space in the steamers. The difficulty was, however, overcome with the assistance of the steamer companies, the Assam Labour Board and the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal, by the provision of temporary extra accommodation for about 250 patients and by the engagement of additional temporary hospital staff. Steps were taken at the same time to prevent as far as possible the importation of cholera cases from affected areas in the recruiting districts and to maintain the rest-houses at the several halting places in this Presidency in good sanitary condition. These measures, together with the introduction of anti-cholera inoculation at all local agencies, restored the situation at Goalundo to a normal condition by the end of February 1919. The question of more efficient control over the sanitary arrangements for emigrants in transit, and the establishment of an emigration hospital at Goalundo, were discussed at a conference held in the office of the Assam Labour Board on **Number of emigrants embarked at Goalundo.**

the 1st August 1919. Remedial measures are now under the consideration of the Board in consultation with the local Governments concerned.

Mortality among emigrants in transit.

566. Three hundred and sixty deaths were reported to have occurred among emigrants at Asansol, Kharagpur or Naihati on their way to Goalundo, and there were 545 deaths among 120,483 emigrants arriving at the latter station. There was no death during the steamer journey among the 40,887 emigrants who embarked for Cachar and Sylhet, but of 78,996 emigrants who embarked for Assam 332 died during the voyage.

Repatriation.

567. Five emigrants who refused to embark were released under the orders of the Subdivisional Officer, Goalundo, 13 were rejected as physically unfit for labour on tea estates, and two emigrants were repatriated from the labour districts through Goalundo.

Medical Relief.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

[Report on the working of Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bengal for 1918. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

General.

568. The total number of hospitals and dispensaries in Calcutta was 22, the same as in 1917. The number of out-patients treated in these institutions was 405,103 which shows a falling off of 1,729 from the number in the past year, while the number of in-patients increased from 31,572 to 34,703. The daily average number of in-patients in classes I, III and IV institutions was 1,637·58—an increase of 22·42 over the daily average for 1917. A large part of this increase was due to the prevalence of influenza. The mortality among in-patients was much higher than in the preceding year, viz., 15·08 per cent. against 10·78. Since the beginning of the war, 87 military officers, four warrant officers, and 15 non-commissioned officers and men have been treated at the Presidency General Hospital. The number of beds in all the hospitals was 2,438, an increase of 111 over that of last year; most of these were, however, in temporary buildings improvised for accommodation of influenza cases.

Nursing.

569. The nurses in the hospitals performed their duties in a most praiseworthy manner. In addition to the scheme for improving the pay and prospects of the nurses at the Presidency General and the Medical College Hospitals, these nurses were allowed a war bonus varying from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 per mensem according to length of service, for the period of war and six months after. The nurses at the Campbell Hospital also received a war bonus for six months from 1st September 1918 at rates varying from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15. Their messing allowance was also raised from annas 10 to annas 12 with effect from the same date. Administrative application to the project for the construction of a new Nurses' Home for the Medical College Hospitals at a cost of Rs. 3,20,000 was accorded during the year and sanction was given to certain improvements to the existing quarters at a cost of Rs. 55,815.

Diseases treated.

570. The number of patients treated in hospitals for influenza were 14,007 out-patients and 2,777 in-patients, and there were 849 deaths among the latter. Both cholera and small-pox prevailed in epidemic form in Calcutta. Sir Leonard Rogers' treatment of cholera is in use in all hospitals and the results are steadily improving. There were 207 deaths amongst 843 cholera in-patients as against 100 amongst 442 in the previous year. One hundred and twenty-two small-pox in-patients were treated with 52 deaths, as compared with eight deaths amongst 20 patients in 1917. Seventy-seven cases of plague were treated in hospitals as compared with 18 in the preceding year. One thousand eight hundred and four patients were treated for phthisis against 2,197 in 1917, but the death rate was higher, viz., 53·1 against 43·2. Patients treated for venereal diseases numbered 17,155, or 2,487 less than that in 1917.

Finance.

571. A sum of Rs. 21,14,443 was expended for the maintenance of hospitals and dispensaries in Calcutta; this is Rs. 47,445 in excess of the expenditure for 1917. The acquisition of land for the new eye-hospital, the extension of the Medical College Hospital compound and the construction

of servants' quarters at the Campbell and Medical College Hospitals were chiefly responsible for the increased expenditure.

DISTRICT HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Number of institutions.

572. Fifteen dispensaries were opened and one closed, leaving a total of 738 at the end of the year. The Jessore District Board inaugurated an experiment of rendering medical aid to the poor free of cost through local medical practitioners who were induced to settle at 9 centres in consideration of an annual subsidy from the Board. Another dispensary of this nature was also started in Gopalganj in the district of Faridpur. These dispensaries are reported to be working well. The floating dispensary started in the district of Bakarganj in 1917 also did good work.

Number of patients.

573. Altogether 6,368,171 persons received medical aid in the Presidency outside Calcutta, as against 6,340,567 in 1917. Of the total number treated 72,028 were in-door patients and 6,296,143 out-door, the corresponding numbers for 1917 being 65,617 and 6,274,947.

Diseases treated.

574. Nearly one-third of the total number treated were malaria cases—the actual number being 1,877,753, which is 258,514 more than that treated in 1917. Treatment with injection of quinine was adopted in several intractable cases with good results. One hundred and thirty-four thousand and fifty-seven persons attended hospitals and dispensaries for treatment for influenza, and among 1,526 in-patients there were 339 deaths. Sixty-one thousand and fifty-seven patients received medical aid for venereal diseases. Persons treated for kala-azar numbered 2,376. In almost all cases they were treated with tartar emetic injections with a great measure of success.

Finance.

575. The receipts of institutions of classes I, III and IV amounted to Rs. 13,72,409 as compared with Rs. 13,42,699 in the preceding year, and the cost of maintenance was Rs. 13,02,485, or Rs. 13,049 less than in 1917, which were chiefly due to smaller expenditure on buildings. Contributions from local funds was responsible for the largest part of the income, viz., 24·10 per cent.; Government paid 11·29 per cent., and public subscriptions and donations amounted to 20·56 per cent.—the respective percentages in the previous year being 40·10, 12·67, and 19·93.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report of the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for the year 1918.]

Admissions.

576. The total number of admissions during the year was 712 as against 542 in the previous year. The number of persons admitted to the several classes, viz., first, intermediate, second and third classes, was 120, 100, 291 and 201 respectively as compared with 138, 76, 215 and 113 during the preceding year. The number of patients treated fell from 136 to 105. The total number of persons treated in free beds was 19 against 17 in the year 1917.

Finance.

577. The total receipts of the institution rose from Rs. 56,417 in 1917 to Rs. 67,581 in 1918 and there was a balance of Rs. 5,374 at the end of the year.

There was an increase of Rs. 6,920 in the expenditure under the head of "Diet for residents." The daily average cost for this rose to Rs. 2-1-10 as compared with Re. 1-11-9 in the year 1917.

The Darjeeling Municipality and the Darjeeling Improvement Fund continued their subsidies of Rs. 1,000 each.

Lunatic Asylums.

[Annual Returns of the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal for the year 1918. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Admission, Discharge Population and Accommodation.

578. Admissions and re-admissions numbered 334, or an increase of 50 over the number of the previous year. This increase was partly due to a larger admission of military insanes in 1918. Thirteen lunatics were also received from the Rangoon Asylum. Three hundred and nineteen lunatics were

discharged during the year as compared with 154 in 1917. The total population of all the asylums in Bengal was 1,430 against 1,335 in 1917, the daily average being 1,079 against 1,074 in the preceding year. The Ranchi Central Lunatic Asylum for Europeans was opened during the year, and all the 62 inmates (viz., 26 males and 36 females) of the Bhowanipur European Lunatic Asylum and 35 European lunatics (25 males and 10 females) from the Berhampur Asylum were removed there. Owing to the closure of the Bhowanipur Asylum the total accommodation in Bengal was reduced from 1,170 to 1,109. During the year under report none of the asylums were seriously overcrowded, but all of them had to work up to practically their full capacity.

Pending the construction of a new building for the "under observation" hospital for mental cases, which is now in progress, a temporary observation ward for 6 cases (3 males and 3 females) was opened in the existing building at Bhowanipur from the 16th September 1918.

Health of lunatics.

579. The year was particularly unhealthy. The number of daily average sick increased from 89·09 in 1917 to 94·30 in 1918, and there were 511 admissions in the hospital against 397 in the preceding year. Chicken-pox broke out in the Berhampur Lunatic Asylum in a mild epidemic form, and epidemic in influenza affected both the Berhampur and Dacca Asylums. There were 104 deaths during the year as compared with 85 in 1917, the ratio per hundred of average population being 9·63 against 7·91 in the previous year. Tuberculosis accounted for the largest number of deaths, viz., 35.

Sanitation.

[Report of the Sanitary Board, Bengal, and the Sanitary Engineer, Bengal, 1918.]

Sanitary Board.

580. The Sanitary Board continued its useful function of advising Government on sanitary projects of water-works and drainage. The Board held eight meetings during the year.

Sanitary Works.

581. The total expenditure incurred on sanitary works executed during the financial year 1917-18 by Government, Municipalities, District Boards and private individuals is returned at Rs. 14,25,040, or nearly one lakh less than in the previous year. The decrease is due to the construction of fewer drains during the year. An increasing interest in sanitation is displayed on all sides. Some local improvement associations have been organised, and certain anti-malarial societies, which in the first place provide medical attendance for the members and secondly undertake local sanitary improvements, have been established and promise to do excellent work.

Sanitary Improvements.

582. The total capital expenditure on sanitary engineering works during the calendar year 1918 was Rs. 3,77,984 as against Rs. 3,32,108 in the previous year. The greater part of the expenditure was, as usual, devoted to water-supply.

The Uttarpara water-works were completed and little remains to be done to the new clear water reservoir at Mymensingh and the Satkhira water-works. The progress of the Natore water-works was interfered with by early rains, but the works have since been opened and the Rajbari water-works have also been completed. The first portion of the extension schemes for Dacca and Mymensingh water-works was almost finished. Repairs to the existing filters and clear water reservoir at Berhampur were taken in hand, but had to be stopped during the rains. Detailed water-supply schemes were prepared for the towns of Midnapore and Pirojpur and sketch projects were prepared for ten other towns.

Public Health organization.

583. The great need of the present moment is a better public health organization, and it was therefore decided that each District Board should be required to appoint a qualified medical officer of health with effect from 1st April 1920. District Boards were consulted throughout the Presidency upon this question. There were differences of opinion, as was only to be expected on a large question of reorganization such as this, but on the whole there was a gratifying volume of opinion in favour of the principle of creating a decentralized organization under the District Boards to deal with sanitary matters. Steps have been taken to train a sufficient number of qualified officers to fill these posts.

Vaccination.

[Annual Statistical Returns and Short Notes on Vaccination in Bengal for the year 1917-18. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

584. The mortality, which amounted to 8,576, shows a slight increase over that of 1917, when 7,010 deaths were reported from this cause, but it was considerably below the average for the preceding quinquennium. The highest district death-rate was returned by Pabna, viz., 1·6 per mille. **Small-pox.**

585. The number of operations performed was 1,784,817, of which 1,295,331 were primary and 489,486 re-vaccination cases, giving an increase of 170,216 in the total number of operations, but a decrease of 62,009 in primary operations as compared with last year. The increase in the total operations was due to the prevalence of small-pox in epidemic form in certain districts as well as to the introduction of free vaccination in Rangpur, Bogra and Bakarganj. The number of persons vaccinated was 1,773,715, or 167,096 more than in 1917-18. Free vaccination was in force in the districts of Jalpaiguri and 24-Parganas, and was introduced in the Burdwan district at the cost of the District Board with effect from the 12th December 1918. **Vaccination.**

The Poisons Act.

[Report on the working of the Poisons Act, 1 of 1904, during 1918.]

586. Measures similar to those taken in previous years were generally adopted to make the provisions of the Act known to the public. The total number of licenses granted during the year throughout the Presidency, including Calcutta, was 163 under section 2 and 240 under section 4, as compared with 178 and 198, respectively, in the preceding year. In Calcutta the total number of licenses issued under both the sections amounted to 123 against 112 in 1917. There was no case of prosecution in Calcutta, but in mufassal districts there were eight prosecutions, five of which ended in conviction and the remaining three cases were pending at the close of the year. Cases of cattle-poisoning were reported from several districts, and it is suspected that unlicensed sale of poisons is still carried on in those localities. No serious irregularities were found in any places except in the district of Dacca, where as a result of inspection three men were prosecuted for breaches of the conditions of their licenses, and reports of unlicensed sale in the case of 13 persons were under investigation during the year. **Working of the Poisons Act.**

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See

General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, pages 264—273.

Education.

[The Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for the year 1918-19. Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

Educational Institutions and Expenditure.

587. During the year 1918-19 the total number of educational institutions, both public and private, rose from 50,887 to 51,701, but the pupils attending them decreased by 33,738, viz., from 1,965,273 to 1,931,535, a result attributed by the Director of Public Instruction to adverse economic conditions, failure of crops and the prevalence of influenza and other diseases.

The total expenditure rose by 22⅔ lakhs and aggregated 277½ lakhs, of which 86 lakhs were granted from Provincial revenues, 15⅓ lakhs were contributed by local bodies (mainly from grants placed at their disposal by Government), 126½ lakhs were realized from fees and 49⅓ lakhs were obtained from private sources, such as subscriptions, donations, etc.

Collegiate Education.

588. Two new arts colleges, teaching up to the intermediate standard, were established, one at Faridpur and the other at Bagerhat, the number of arts colleges for Indian male students consequently rising from 31 to 33. Of these, seven were under Government management, one was under municipal management, 12 were aided and 13 unaided. The number of students rose from 20,318 to 20,616 and the expenditure increased by Rs. 1,02,754, bringing up the total to 19⅓ lakhs, of which nearly a third was derived from Provincial revenues. The new system of post-graduate teaching undertaken by the University of Calcutta led to a considerable decrease in the number of post-graduate students in the Presidency College.

Secondary Education.

589. While the number of high schools for boys showed an increase of 81, the number of middle schools fell by 46, owing mainly to the conversion of a number of those institutions to high schools. The middle vernacular schools are steadily losing popularity and, as the Director of Public Instruction observes, there is now little demand for them. On the other hand, there has been a steady increase of high schools, the number of which has risen by 114, or 16 per cent., in the last two years. The increase of pupils has, however, been scarcely commensurate, the total of those under instruction rising in the same period by only 14,406, or 6·6 per cent.; there is reason to believe that in some places this disproportionate growth of schools and pupils is due to rival high schools springing up, with consequent overlapping. The manual instruction classes, which were opened in 1915-16 as an experimental measure in selected secondary schools, having proved successful, Government sanctioned their permanent retention during the year under review.

Primary Education.

590. The number of primary schools for boys increased by no less than 1,486 in 1917-18, but during the year under review there was an addition of only 197 schools, while enrolment fell by 38,277 (8,068 in upper primary schools and 30,209 in lower primary schools). The decrease in the number of pupils is ascribed by the Director of Public Instruction to economic stress and the ravages of epidemic diseases. The number of Hindu pupils in primary schools for boys fell by 4·3 per cent. and that of Muhammadan pupils by 2·3 per cent.

During the year the Government of India sanctioned a recurring grant of 5½ lakhs for the improvement of primary education, and with the

help of this grant the Education Department was able to resume the panchayati union scheme which was started some years ago in Eastern Bengal with the object of providing each union with a decent primary school, but had to be suspended owing to financial stringency. Under this scheme 119 primary schools for boys and 30 for girls were established during the year, and the grant will ensure similar progress each year, so that in course of time every union will have a primary school conducted on improved lines.

Training of male teachers for Indian schools.

591. There were 125 institutions for the training of teachers for Indian schools at the end of the year, viz., 2 training colleges, 6 normal schools and 117 *guru*, *muallim* and special training schools. A number of improvements were effected in the David Hare Training College, viz., the opening of L. T. classes, the appointment of an additional professor, the creation of a number of stipends for the training of intending teachers and the provision of allowances for teachers under training from aided high schools. Altogether 134 trained teachers were turned out from the training schools for vernacular teachers, while 954 trained teachers passed successfully from the *guru*-training schools and special training schools.

Professional and Technical Education.

592. The study of law continues to maintain popularity, the number of students rising from 3,054 to 3,149. Out of 1,131 candidates who appeared at the B.L. final examination, 493 passed during the year. Owing to the demand for trained artizans consequent on the industrial development of the country, the number of students in technical and industrial schools increased. With the object of improving the training of mechanical engineers a committee was appointed by Government to work out a scheme for recruiting students for the mechanical engineering classes of the Civil Engineering College at Sibpur from among apprentices trained at the Eastern Bengal Railway workshops at Kanchrapara. A system by which visiting lecturers deliver courses of lectures in special subjects, such as municipal engineering, river engineering and structural engineering, has been instituted in the college. Owing to the rise in the price of cloth, there was a demand for the development of hand-loom weaving and six peripatetic centres of instruction were established. A scheme for giving practical training in mine-surveying at the collieries to passed students of the survey school at Mainamati has been brought into effect.

Education of Indian girls and women.

593. There was a noticeable expansion of female education during the year under review, the number of institutions for Indian girls increasing by 622 and the number of scholars by 8,215. The number of Hindu girls declined by 1,635, while that of the Muhammadan girls increased by 9,918. Progress is still hampered by the inadequate salaries paid to female teachers and by want of facilities for training them, while the female inspecting agency is not sufficiently strong and the school buildings are generally poor. With the help, however, of the Imperial recurring grants of 9 lakhs and 5½ lakhs some improvements have been effected, such as the enhancement of the pay of teachers in certain classes of primary schools, the extension of the scheme of panchayati union schools for girls, the appointment of two additional assistant inspectresses of schools, the improvement of the buildings of model primary schools for girls, etc. The work of zenana teachers is reported to have been unsatisfactory owing to the prevalence of epidemics, in consequence of which many teachers were absent on medical leave and a number of centres were closed for want of teachers. Peripatetic needlework teachers have done useful work, which is appreciated by the Indian community, while the industrial and technical schools for girls and women, of which the most important are those at Kalimpong, Baranagar and Berhampore, are working satisfactorily.

On the creation of the Presidency the Hindu girls under instruction outnumbered the Muhamamdan girls by 40,000; but since then the Moslem community has shown an increasing readiness to take advantage of the opportunities offered them for the education of the girls while the Hindus have lagged behind. Since 1912-13 the number of the latter has risen by only 21,000 or 17 per cent.—during the year there was actually a small decrease—whereas the enrolment of Muhammadan girls in the same period has risen by 63,000, or a little over 70 per cent.

Education of Europeans.

594. There were altogether 10,005 European and Anglo-Indian pupils under instruction in schools working under the Code for European Schools. A munificent donation of 10 lakhs, intended mainly for the progress of education among the domiciled community, was received from a European citizen of Calcutta, and a trust fund was created for which a scheme of management was drawn up during the year. The trust provides, *inter alia*, for the creation of a number of scholarships for European and Anglo-Indian boys and girls for both general and professional education, either in India or in the United Kingdom.

Education of Muhammadans.

595. The total number of Muhammadan pupils in institutions of all kinds decreased by 8,561, the net result of an addition of 9,455 female scholars and a loss of 18,016 male scholars; but the falling off, which represents under 1 per cent., was less than among the Hindus, who lost 24,853 scholars or 2½ per cent. There was a regrettable decrease of 5,642 Moslem students in secondary schools, but there was no falling off either in professional colleges or in medical, engineering, technical and industrial schools, while in madrasahs the number increased by 1,571, or a little over 7 per cent. Additional grants were sanctioned during the year to enable District Boards to aid *maktabs* at a higher rate, and the number of those institutions rose by 1,600 and their enrolment by 36,000.

Sanction was given to the establishment of Islamic intermediate classes attached to the Dacca Madrasah and regulations were approved for Islamic Matriculation and Intermediate examinations, in conducting which the Education Department will be assisted by an Advisory Board.

Literature and the Press.

[Statistics of British India. Part VII—Educational.]

The Bengal Library and working of Act XXV of 1867.

596. The total number of publications registered during the year was 3,692, namely, 2,703 books and 989 issues of periodicals. Of the books, 2,499 were original publications, and 204 republications and translations. The issues of periodicals represented 141 separate publications, of which 44 were in English, 63 in Bengali and the remainder in other languages. There were 20 cases of evasion of the law of book-registration under Act XXV of 1867.

Literary publications.

597. There was a very slight increase in the output of literature as compared with that of the preceding year. There were no poetical works of first class merit, and the volume of poetry declined. Numerous biographies and biographical sketches of Indians were published. No drama of special merit was produced: indeed dramatic literature has for some years past been in a decadent condition owing not only to a lack of able writers but also partly to a lack of public interest in this form of literature. Fiction continued to flourish. Many good novels, historical, social and domestic, and a large number of volumes of short stories were published. The two best historical novels were "Karuna" by Rakhal Das Banerji, M.A., of the Archæological Department and "Ramgarh" by Anurupa Devi. The output of political literature was larger than in any previous year. The main topic dealt with was the question of reforms in the administration of the country. There were no works of special merit in the domain of Art, Religion and Philosophy.

The Press.

598. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, both English and vernacular, printed and published in the Presidency during the year was 353; of these 228 were published in the town of Calcutta; 178 were in Bengali, 104 in English, 11 in Hindi, 7 in Urdu and the rest in Assamese, Sanskrit and other languages.

Thirty-one new periodicals and newspapers were started, 7 old papers were revived and 29 ceased to exist.

Working of the Naval and Military News (Emergency) Ordinance and the Indian Press Act.

599. The attitude of the Indian Press in regard to the war was on the whole satisfactory. A section of the Urdu papers, edited by a small band of upcountry Muhammadan journalists who came to Calcutta after the outbreak of the war, gave some trouble. The editors of two of the papers, in spite of precensorship, continued their mischievous activities and were largely responsible for the agitation which led to the disturbances in Calcutta in

September 1918. As a result of these disturbances five journalists of this class were expelled from Calcutta and their papers ceased to exist. No prosecution was instituted under the Naval and Military (Emergency) Ordinance, 1914. A few cases of indiscretion were met by a friendly warning from the Press Censor. One book and one pamphlet were forfeited and the security of one newspaper was also forfeited. Security was demanded from 15 papers and 11 printing presses; seven of the papers and nine presses furnished security, but the rest failed to do so.

Topics discussed in the Press.

600. The reform scheme formed the main subject of discussion during the year. The European Press deplored the launching of so large an experiment at a time of world upheaval, and maintained that the proposals threatened the security of commerce and industry. The Indian press considered that the proposals did not go far enough, and later divided into two parties, one favouring acceptance, and the other, at first, demanding complete rejection. The Muhammadan press maintained that the scheme did not give a fair share of power to the Muhammadan community, and urged the necessity of communal representation for Muhammadans.

The Indian papers maintained their interest in the war, and their general tone was satisfactory, although a note of detachment, or a spirit of bargaining in their support of the War Loan and Recruitment was in some cases observable. The administration of the Defence of India Act was as usual attacked by the Indian papers, but a series of communiqués traversing the wildest statements made had a noticeable effect upon their attitude. They generally denounced the Rowlatt Committee's Report, and most of them professed to remain unconvinced by the reports of Mr. Stevenson-Moore and Sir Benode Mitter, and of Sir Narayan Chandavarkar and Mr. Justice Beachcroft.

The Indian Press was much concerned with the shortage of cloth and the high prices of other necessaries. The riots in Calcutta in September were also given prominence. The moderate Hindu papers appreciated the forbearance of the authorities, but the Muhammadan papers alleged that excessive force had been used in quelling the disturbances.

Literary Societies.

See

General Administration Report for 1911-12, Part II, pages 278—279.

Arts and Sciences.

Government School of Art, Calcutta.

601. The total number of students on the 31st March 1919 was 246 against 267 in the previous year. The decrease was mainly due to the influenza epidemic, on account of which the school was practically closed for three months. The elementary, industrial, draftsman, fine art and teachers' departments had 102, 46, 35, 59 and 4 pupils, respectively. During the year the direct expenditure on the institution aggregated Rs. 32,780, of which Rs. 28,232 came from Provincial revenues. A number of passed students secured employment on salaries ranging from Rs. 20 to Rs. 150 per month.

Civil Engineering College, Sibpur.

602. The number of students attending the engineering department of the college was 91, being an increase of 5 over the figure in the previous year. In the apprentice department the number of students was 237 against 214 in the preceding year. The artizan classes had 58 pupils against 53 in the year before. The total net expenditure on the college amounted to Rs. 2,30,096, of which Rs. 2,02,561 came from Provincial revenues; the average cost of educating a student was Rs. 707-15-9, of which Rs. 623-4-3 came from public funds.

During the year Government appointed a committee to work out a scheme propounded by the governing body of the college for recruiting students for the mechanical engineering classes from amongst those

apprentices who had completed 4 years of their apprenticeship at the Eastern Bengal Railway Workshop at Kanchrapara. The scheme is to be capable of extension to other railway workshops. A proposal to secure the services of practising engineers and other experts to deliver courses of special lectures in various subjects to the students of the college was submitted to Government, and sanction was obtained to the appointment of a visiting lecturer in architecture. The appointment of such lecturers in other subjects has been sanctioned by Government since the close of the period under review.

Dacca School of Engineering.

603. The school had 275 pupils on its rolls as compared with 252 in the previous year. The artizan classes had 81 students, of whom 15 completed the course during the year. This department is becoming popular.

The three-year course for the overseer department, sanctioned by Government, was introduced from the beginning of the session on an experimental basis for three years.

Mining instruction in the coal fields.

604. During the year under review the Mining Education Advisory Board controlled three centres at Deshergarh, Jamuria and Raniganj in Bengal, besides the two centres at Jharia and Sijua in Bihar and Orissa. Out of 107 students eligible for the sessional examination for the five centres only 43 appeared, of whom 26 passed. The number on the rolls of those classes aggregated 288 against 312 in the previous year. The vernacular classes had an average attendance of 79.

The scheme for the practical training in mine-surveying at collieries of passed students of the survey school at Mainamati was given effect to during the year under report. One student of the school was posted for training at the Ghersick colliery.

Pleaders' Survey Examination.

605. The short training classes at Dacca and Sibpur continued. Out of 8 registered candidates 3 appeared at the examination held in February 1919 and one passed.

During the year the board formulated a scheme for teaching pleaders the uses and relative value of old and new revenue maps and plans by a series of lectures.

Amin Examination Board.

606. The first examination under the auspices of the board was held in September 1918. The number of candidates appearing in the examination was 59, of whom 48 passed.

Serampore Weaving Institute and outlying centres.

607. In the artizan classes the total number of students was 91, of whom 43 passed out. Of these, 28 are working at their own homes on fly-shuttle looms, 8 have taken employment in hand-loom factories or under Government, and the remaining 7 left the institute before the completion of their course. The higher classes had 31 students during the year. The course for these classes has been extended with effect from the year under report from 2 to 3 years. Also the course of the outlying district school has been extended from 6 months to 1 year. Dyeing classes were opened during the year.

Government have sanctioned the establishment of six peripatetic centres of instruction in weaving at Bankura, Pabna, Tangail, Malda, Dacca and Khulna. The instructors were directed to make a survey of their districts and to ascertain the actual condition of the hand-loom weaving industry before they began operations. This they have now done.

Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

608. The number of pupils who joined the day classes was 61 in the first year and 10 in the second year, and the students in the evening classes totalled 89, the great majority of whom took shorthand, typewriting and book-keeping. No class could be formed during the year either in banking and currency or in annuities and insurance. At the final examination 4 candidates passed out of 10, and at the special examinations 38 passed out of 79. Sanction has been obtained to the creation of a special post outside the Indian Educational Service for the Principal of the institute.

Joint Technical Examination Board.

609. There were two sub-overseer examinations in the year under review, the first in July 1918 and the second in March 1919. The first was a supplementary examination for the candidates from Sibpur who commenced the course in November 1917. The total number of candidates at the two examinations was 167, of whom 90 passed. In the overseer examination 58 passed out of 71. The figures for the overseer examination include 16 candidates appearing in mechanical and electrical branch of whom 13 were successful.

City and Guilds London Institute Technological examinations.

610. Forty-three candidates appeared in textile subjects and an equal number in other subjects. The numbers are increasing steadily. Thirty-one passed in the textile subjects and 11 in non-textile subjects. As in the year before, special examinations in domestic subjects were held in November 1918 at Kurseong and Calcutta. Thirty-five appeared in these examinations, of whom 30 passed. An examination in practical cookery was held for the first time. Encouraging and instructive reports were received from London on the results of these domestic examinations.

"B" Classes.

611. At the "B" class school final examination held in 1919, 44 candidates appeared and 24 passed. These figures do not include candidates from Bihar and Orissa. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 52 and 34, respectively.

CHAPTER VIII.—Archæology.

Archæology.

[Annual Report of the Archæological Survey of India, Eastern Circle, for 1918-19.]

Establishment.

612. Mr. K. N. Dikshit was in charge of the Eastern Circle during the major portion of the year, as Dr. Spooner, the Superintendent, officiated as Director-General of Archæology from 8th July to 21st October, and was again deputed to Simla to work as Assistant Director of Archæology. Mr. H. Panday held the post of Assistant Superintendent throughout the year.

Monuments and Antiquities.

613. The only original conservation work undertaken during the year was in connection with the monuments around Murshidabad. A sum of Rs. 1,096 was spent during the year against an estimate of Rs. 2,054. The work is in progress. The total expenditure on special and annual repairs amounted to Rs. 13,409. Work which was in progress on the cloisters of the Adina mosque at Pandua in the district of Malda and in the mosque of Masjidbari in the district of Bakarganj, was completed during the year under review. Owing to a shock of earthquake which was felt in Eastern Bengal in July 1918, several monuments in the Dacca Division suffered more or less damage. The Hussaini Dalan at Dacca and the Sadi mosque at Agarasindur in the district of Mymensingh suffered most. The damage was made good during the year.

Two monuments of historical or archæological interest were declared to be protected monuments during the year under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 (Act VII of 1904). In one case an agreement was made between the Secretary of State and the owners of the monument under section 5 of the Act. Notifications declaring the minar and two mosques at Panduah in the district of Hooghly to be protected monuments, were withdrawn during the year.

Working of the Treasure Trove Act (Act VI of 1878).

614. Finds of coins were reported from Rudranagar in the district of Birbhum, Mokampara in the district of Nadia, Chapila in the district of Rajshahi and Mohanbatty in the district of Dinajpur. In two cases acquisition was not recommended as the coins were of a common species, but the Mokampara and Rudranagar finds were acquired by Government and distributed to different museums.

CHAPTER IX.—Miscellaneous.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See *General Administration Report for the year 1911-12, Part II, page 282.*

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

615. The Ecclesiastical Establishment in Bengal during the year, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 11 Chaplains of the Church of England, 2 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 8 Clergymen of the Additional Clergy Society or other Societies, the Most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Brice Meuleman, S.J., and 4 priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1918. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

General.

616. Rai Chuni Lall Bose, Bahadur, First Assistant Chemical Examiner, continued to hold charge of the department throughout the year during the absence on military duty of Lieutenant-Colonel F. N. Windsor, I.M.S.

Total of cases.

617. The total number of analyses performed during the year was 3,016, as compared with 3,132 in the preceding year. Fifty samples of ghee were received for examination from various sources, and of these 31 or 62 per cent. were of good quality and 19 were found to be adulterated. The passing of the Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Act (I of 1917) in connection with the manufacture and sale of ghee appears to have had a salutary effect on the quality of ghee sold in the Calcutta markets.

Medico-legal work.

618. In the medico-legal department 1,356 cases were examined during the year as against 1,526 cases in the previous year, showing a decrease of 170 cases. The total number of articles examined in this department was 2,510 as compared with 2,749 in 1917. The viscera of 689 persons were examined in 1918 as against 747 in the preceding year. The percentage of detection in human-poisoning cases was 38·88 as compared with 35·65 in 1917. The percentage of detection in cases of suspected animal-poisoning was 59·77 as compared with 60·24 in the preceding year.

Veterinary Department.

[Report of the Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, for the year 1918-19.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

619. The number of students on the roll of the Bengal Veterinary College at the beginning of the session was 176, but the number at the end of the session was 165. Sixty-three of these came from Bengal, 49 from Bihar and Orissa, 25 from Assam, 12 from the United Provinces, 10 from Madras, 1 from Burma, 4 from Ceylon and 1 from Port Blair. Out of 165 students who appeared at the examination 111 passed. Thirty-three students graduated

from the College, the percentage of passes having been 64·70. To attract a better class of students to the Bengal Veterinary College and thereby improve the efficiency of the Department, the pay of the Veterinary Assistants has been raised from Rs. 30—$\frac{1}{5}^{0}$—70 per mensem to Rs. 50—$\frac{1}{5}^{0}$—100 per mensem.

During the year 2,467 cases were treated and 814 operations performed at the College Hospital. There were 6,986 prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, but only 290 animals were sent to the hospital for treatment.

Glanders and Farcy Act.

620. In Calcutta and its suburbs all the stables lying within the area under the operation of the Glanders and Farcy Act were regularly inspected during the year. Glanders and farcy were detected in 13 stables and *surra* in four. In the mufassal 17 deaths from glanders were reported as against 27 in the previous year.

Civil Veterinary Department.

621. There was a considerable decrease in the mortality of animals from contagious diseases during the year, the total number of deaths reported being 15,569 as against 26,486 in the previous year. The most striking decrease was under the head rinderpest, the number of deaths being 10,772 as compared with 21,126 in the previous year. The decrease was due to the proper organisation of inoculation campaigns by the Veterinary Department in the affected localities. The death-rate from anthrax was, however, heavier during the year, owing to a particularly severe outbreak in the Sundarbans of the 24-Parganas. There were virulent outbreaks of rinderpest during the year all over Calcutta and its suburbs. Prompt measures were taken in each outbreak to prevent the spread of the disease and inoculation was performed in 4,984 cases.

The Itinerant Veterinary Assistants visited 13,462 villages and treated 58,025 animals as compared with 11,520 villages and 67,333 animals in the previous year.

Dispensaries.

622. Four new dispensaries were recognised at Siliguri, Bankura, Satkhira and Chuadanga during the year, bringing the total number of such institutions up to 31. The number of patients treated during the year was 43,312 as against 34,889 in the previous year. The increase in the number of cases shows that the usefulness of these institutions is being fully appreciated by the public.

Breeding of cattle.

623. The number of stud bulls kept by Government and local bodies increased from 68 in the previous year to 104 in the year under review. Only 44 of these were the property of local bodies.

Staff.

624. The subordinate staff of the Civil Veterinary Department consisted of 1 Deputy Superintendent, 6 Inspectors, 4 Staff Veterinary Assistants, 6 Reserve Veterinary Assistants and 91 District Veterinary Assistants.

With a view to popularising the work of the Veterinary Assistants and to extending their sphere of utility District Boards have been asked to appoint sub-committees to deal with the veterinary work of the Boards.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1918-19.]

Finance and Statistics.

625. The financial condition of the garden was on the whole satisfactory, in spite of further increase in the cost of food grains. The entrance receipts amounted to Rs. 48,490, an increase of Rs. 3,926 over those of the previous year. Including the Government contribution of Rs. 20,000 the total receipts amounted to Rs. 1,06,400-5-8 and the total expenditure to Rs. 71,772-3-8, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 34,459-4. During the year 635,437 persons, 52,154 more than in the previous year, visited the garden. The number of mammals, birds, and reptiles in the garden at the close of the year was 299, 1,944 and 171, respectively, against 316, 2,026 and 199 at the close of the previous year.

The garden was, as usual, open free to the public one day in each month, and 32,203 persons availed themselves of the concession.

The War.

626. The cessation of hostilities in Europe in November 1918 occasioned genuine satisfaction and relief throughout the Presidency. **Cessation of hostilities.**

627. There was no change in the policy concerning hostile aliens in Bengal. They continued to be interned in the civil detention camps, while a few, previously released on parole, continued to live under supervision at their places of residence. **Hostile aliens.**

628. Contributions continued to be made by the public to established war funds and other institutions connected with the war. A considerable sum was contributed to the second Indian war loan. **War contributions.**

629. In order to develop war propaganda a Provincial Publicity Board was constituted during the year. With the cessation of hostilities the operations of the board were however brought to a close. Two other war agencies, the Press Censor's Department and the Provincial Recruiting Board, were also abolished. **War agencies.**

630. The organisation for recruiting in Bengal, which had been developed during the preceding year, consisted of a divisional recruiting officer, five assistant recruiting officers, and district assistant recruiting officers in each district. These were assisted by the Provincial Recruiting Board, the Bengali Regiment Committee, numerous local committees and the whole machinery of the civil administration. A further improvement was effected during the year as regards the recruitment of non-combatants by placing the Technical Recruiting Officer in charge of all non-combatant recruitment in Calcutta, while the Divisional Recruiting Officer confined himself to the mufassal. **Recruiting.**

Increasing numbers of recruits were obtained for the Bengali Regiment, and new depôts were opened at Dacca and Dum-Dum. In the month of August the number of recruits rose to 1,051. Recruitment for the Bengali Regiment was however closed in September and the personnel was reduced from 5,243 to 3,091. It has been decided to retain the regiment after the war with a depôt strength of 550.

As regards non-combatants, men were obtained in large numbers in Calcutta, and the contribution from the mufassal became steady and important. During the year 1918 the Technical Recruiting Officer obtained over 20,500 men, including skilled and unskilled, superior staff, and marine ratings; and the total number of non-combatants, obtained by the divisional recruiting staff in Bengal, with Cachar and Sylhet, from the beginning of its operations was over 15,600.

The Bengal Labour Corps returned from France at the end of July.

Bengal continued to supply lascars for the merchant service; the total number sent to out ports in 1918 was over 13,000.

631. Shortly after the signing of the armistice with Germany in November 1918, the training prescribed for the European Branch of the Indian Defence Force was modified and made less stringent. The future of this Branch of the Force was under consideration during the year. **The Indian Defence Force.**

The question of increasing the European man-power available in Bengal for war purposes was examined with the assistance of mercantile and trade firms and other local bodies, but was dropped on the cessation of hostilities.

In view of the desire expressed in many quarters for an opportunity to share in the defence of the country, recruitment for the Indian Branch of the Indian Defence Force was reopened, but only 200 men were actually enrolled, and only 99 underwent preliminary training.

The Calcutta University Corps, the organization of which was placed on a separate and proper footing, continued its training.

The Bengal Light Horse completed its training. The future of this, as well as of the other units of the Indian Branch of the Indian Defence Force, was under consideration at the close of the year.

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1918 - 19.

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REFERENCE

	(Open for Traffic)	(Under Construction)	(Surveyed or Projected)
Province Boundary Defined			
" " Undefined			
State "			
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Sub Division "			
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Sundarbans "			
Standard Gauge			
Metre "			
Special "			
Metalled road			
Unmetalled			
Canals			

The numerals denote the height of feet above mean sea level.

1 2 3 4

27° 26° 25° 24°

PURNEA

PURNEA

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BHUTAN
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GOALPARA
KOCH BEHAR
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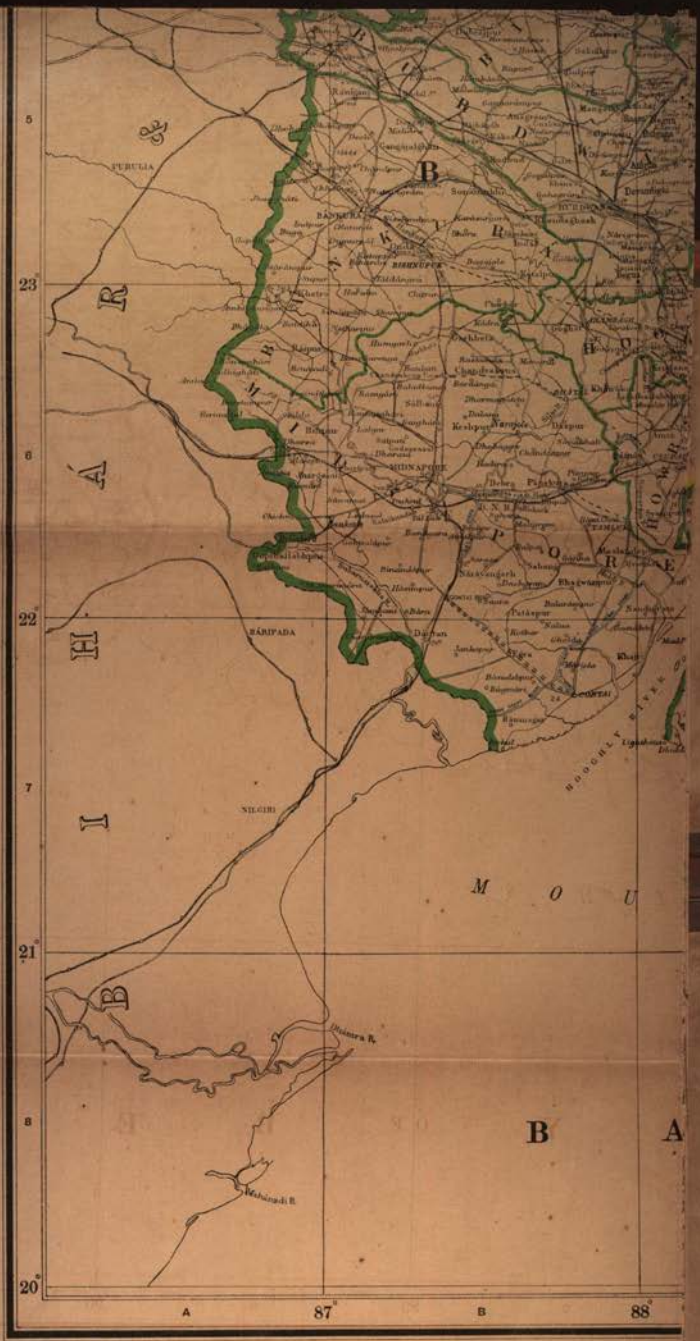
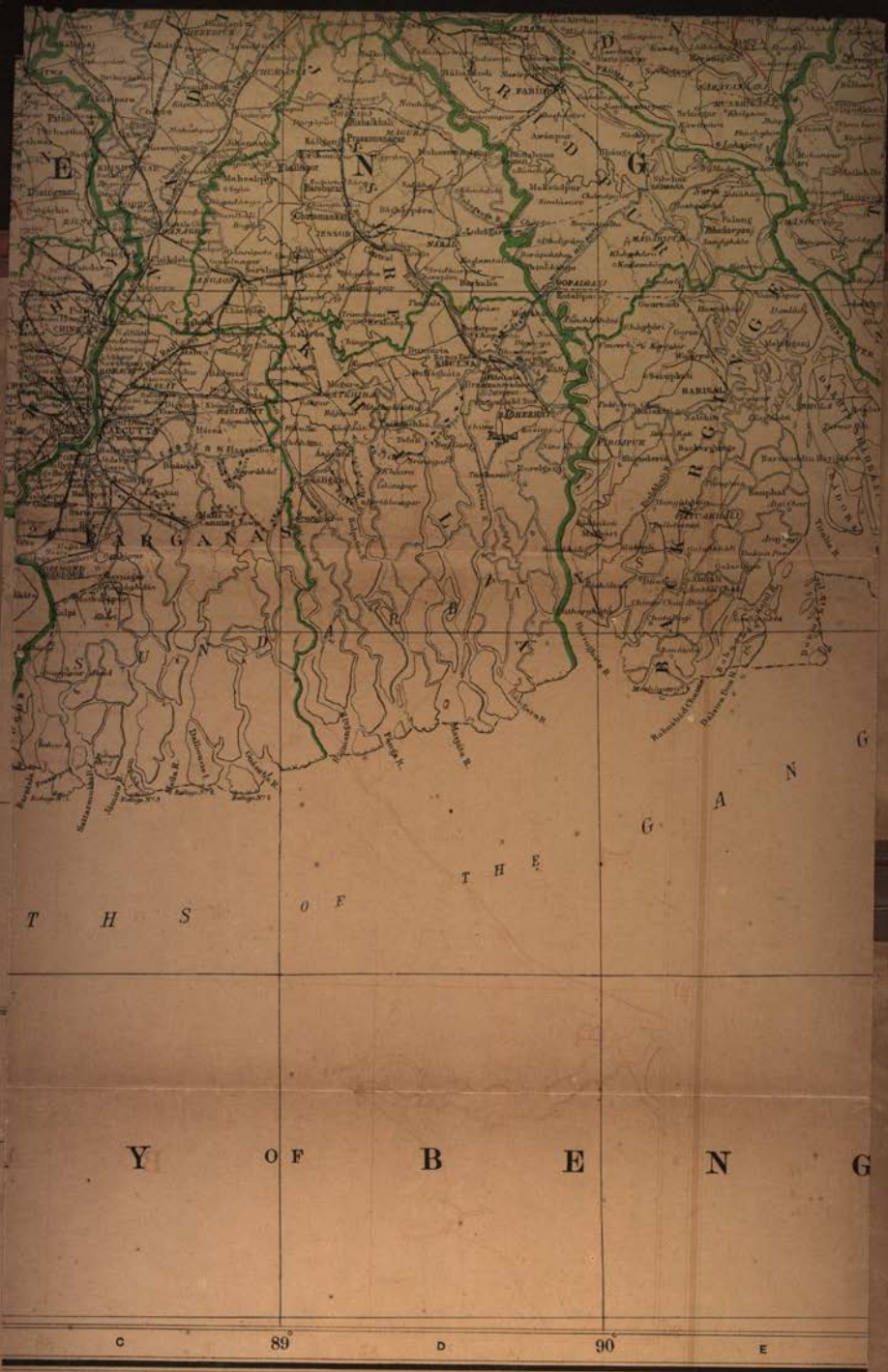


NOTE.—The longitudes are referrible to the Greenwich meridian, taking that of Madras observatory as 80°-17'-21" East. They require a correction of —2'-27" to make them accord with the most recent value of the geodetic longitude of that observatory, *viz.*, 80°-14'-54".



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